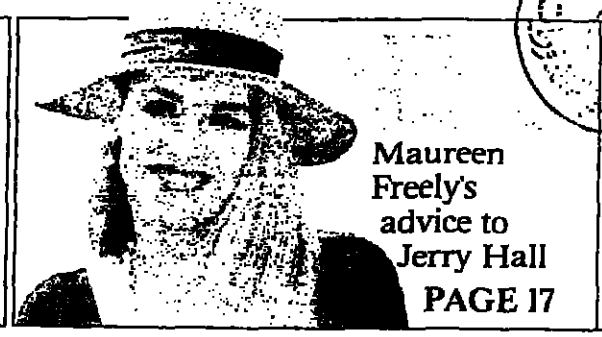


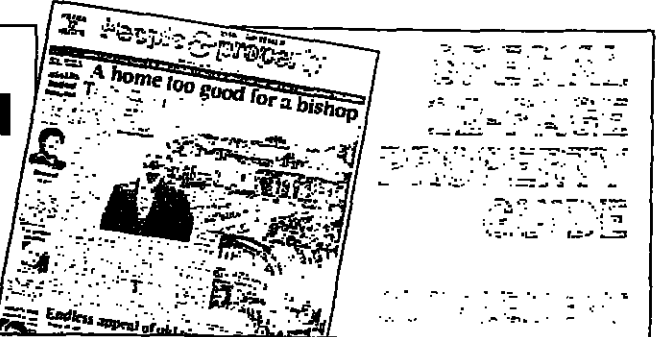
PAGE 30



Maureen Freely's advice to Jerry Hall
PAGE 17



100 YEARS IN YOUR POCKET
PAGE 14



Right urged to switch support to Hague rather than Redwood in challenge to Clarke

Howard and Lilley pull out of race

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE and **Kenneth Clarke** were running neck-and-neck in the race to become Tory leader last night after the first ballot of the party's MPs left the Right in turmoil.

John Redwood defied all expectations by finishing third behind Mr Clarke and Mr Hague, beating Peter Lilley and Michael Howard. They both quickly withdrew from the next round, but dashed Mr Redwood's hopes by announcing that they would be backing Mr Hague as the only way of stopping the Shadow Chancellor, A. Lilley supporter said: "Redwood has not got a chance."

After consulting supporters, Mr Howard said: "I have decided to withdraw and to support William Hague. I believe he is best placed to unite the party and to lead us to victory at the next election."

Mr Lilley thanked his supporters and said: "My aims have always been to reunite, to rebuild and to renew the Conservative Party. I believe William Hague is now best placed to achieve those objectives and win the general election. Having worked closely with him in the past, I greatly admire his abilities and propose to give him my support."

Mr Hague now has the Tory crown in his sights at the age of 36, having come second in yesterday's poll with the support of 41 of the party's 164 MPs. Mr Clarke, boosted earlier in the day by massive grassroots backing, came top of the poll with 49. Mr

How Tory MPs voted

Kenneth CLARKE	49
William HAGUE	41
John REDWOOD	27
Peter LILLEY	24
Michael HOWARD	23

Redwood received 27 votes, Mr Lilley 24 and Mr Howard, under attack by some on the Right for overstating his support during the campaign, 23.

Mr Redwood, Mr Howard and Mr Lilley quickly began negotiations to decide on the Right's next move. There had been an unofficial understanding between the three camps that the candidate who led the other two would go forward as the standard bearer of the Right, and Baroness Thatcher is understood to have indicated that she would back whoever that turned out to be — but Mr Redwood was to be disappointed.

Mr Clarke needs to find only six more votes in the second round next Tuesday to be certain of going through into a final run-off, while Mr Hague needs another 14. Mr Redwood could get into the final ballot if he were to pick up just half of the votes cast for Mr Lilley and Mr Howard yesterday — but a Clarke-Hague race seems almost inevitable.

Most Tory MPs were stunned when they learnt of Mr Redwood's success in Committee room 14 at the Commons, and the Howard and Lilley camps were crest-

fallen. Some MPs even claimed that Clarke supporters had secretly voted for Mr Redwood to cause maximum confusion on the Right — a theory dismissed as crazy by the Clarke camp.

Supporters of Mr Hague were jubilant and believe that he can go forward to win. He said: "I think this is very good result which has exceeded expectations. It puts me in a very good position to campaign for the second ballot on a platform of uniting the party and giving the party a fresh start. I think it clearly puts me in a position to win. We will go into the second ballot with great confidence."

But Mr Clarke was reported to be equally confident — although some of his supporters were privately disappointed that his vote had not quite reached the fifties.

The Shadow Chancellor has now won polls in all sections of the party from peers, MPs to the constituency rank-and-file. In one survey, he secured the support of 269 constituency chairmen, compared with 178 for Mr Hague. The rest were nowhere.

Mr Clarke said support for him was much stronger than he had dared to expect when the campaign started. But, acknowledging that he needed rightwing votes for ultimate victory, he added: "I intend to seek to broaden my appeal further by setting out how

Continued on page 2, col 6

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Kenneth Clarke was elated after collecting the most votes, but is his support enough?

Message to the voters is clear: the parties go on

Political Sketch

Matthew Parris

"This means more parties, that's the important thing," gurgled an excited Tory MP, Peter Luff (Mid-Worcestershire), passing the journalistic pack outside Committee Room 14. Five parties the night before had not been enough for him.

For just an instant after the result was announced there had been complete silence. Then uproar. Mobile phones and beepers joined an atonal crescendo as reporters scrambled for interviews with MPs, candidates, and each other. "What does this mean?" was the question on everyone's lips. Nobody knew, of course.

The tension had been gripping. Twenty minutes after the last vote was in, still no signal had come from the committee room, its oak door slammed shut.

What was the delay? "How long does it take a Tory MP to count to 164?" became the joke of the hour. Someone suggested that Peter Lilley had won but none of the tellers could believe it.

For journalists this had been a long day, the champagne brought by Michael Colvin MP being to revive scrutineers only.

First among the candidates to vote had been Peter Lilley and John Redwood, their arrival coinciding unfortunately with the declaration of constituency results by Sir Archie Hamilton, chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee, showing both men near the bottom of the heap. Smiles froze, teeth clenched and spinners spun.

Peter Lilley looked (in Neil Coward's description of a much-facelifted actress) "a

very old thirteen." John Redwood, who does not age as humans do, looked wired.

At 10.53 William Hague arrived, looking sweet. Then came Michael Howard, looking soigné. Finally Kenneth Clarke bowed along, looking fat.

There had been (according to those within) a flurry of Tory MPs "showing" voting slips as they voted. No Tory completely trusts another.

"Even if I had voted for someone else I wouldn't tell you," said Geoffrey Clinton Brown, one of Kenneth Clarke's campaign team, delphically. Emerging from the room just before the ballot closed, one MP was asked how he had voted. "I'll tell you in 15 minutes," he replied. Sir

Continued on page 2, col 1



"Ignore it — it's only the first ballot."

Chips down for school junk food

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has launched an assault on junk food in the school canteens, announcing plans to set compulsory nutritional standards for the first time in 18 years.

Mr Blunkett complained that pupils were, on average, eating chips three times a week. Page 8

Bankruptcy for Lloyd's debtor

A bookmaker from Cheshire has been declared bankrupt for refusing to pay his debts at Lloyd's of London. Brian Rowlands, who owns shops in the Liverpool area, is believed to be the first name to be made bankrupt by Lloyd's in its 309-year history. Lloyd's has been pursuing 50 names for more than £1 million each. Page 25

Cash claims likely over 'fast' plastic bullets

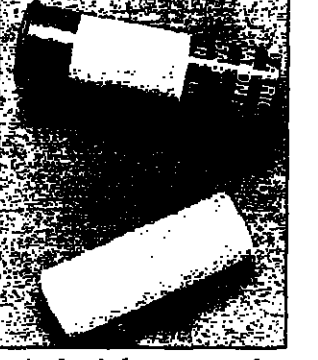
By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Ministry of Defence is bracing itself for hefty compensation claims after an admission that thousands of plastic rounds fired by the Army and the police to quell riots in Northern Ireland had travelled too fast, increasing the chance of serious injury.

More than 100 people are known to have been injured by plastic rounds in the past three years and a senior Northern Ireland Office official agreed that many more may have been hurt who had failed to report the circumstances of their injuries.

Most of those known to have been injured will have been struck by rounds from a batch of 284,500 which were manufactured between November 1993 and June 1994. A third of them were found to be exceeding the muzzle velocity limit of 70 metres a second, or about 156mph, most by about

3 per cent. Last year, the Royal Ulster Constabulary fired 6,951 plastic rounds and the Army fired 1,387. The ministry agreed that most of them would have been from the 1993-94 batch. All plastic rounds have been replaced by a new batch which has been tested rigorously.



A plastic baton round

A senior defence official refused to say who had manufactured the plastic rounds "because this company has been threatened by terrorists in the past and we are keeping the name confidential". However, there are two companies in Britain, one in Derbyshire and the other in Wiltshire, which manufacture plastic rounds for anti-riot security forces. The defence official said the question of liability was being discussed.

The plastic LSAS rounds fired from an L104 baton gun are supposed to be "low-lethality civil disturbance weapons". The "bullets", which are shaped like a small heavy candle and are made of hard PVC, weigh 4½oz and are 3½in long.

Seventeen people, some of them children, have been killed by these rounds. The first to die from a plastic bullet

was Stephen Geddis, ten, in August 1973. He suffered a fractured skull after being hit in the head during street disturbances. In October 1976 Brian Stewart, 13, died after being hit by a plastic round when soldiers came under attack from stone-throwers.

Seamus Duffy, 15, was the last person to be killed by a plastic round, during a riot in Belfast in 1989. Sean O'Neill, 42, whose son, Damien, 19, suffered a severe arm injury in Londonderry last July, said that he would be demanding greater compensation. His son, who he said was "totally innocent", still needs treatment for his arm after he was struck by a plastic bullet — an "indiscriminate" weapon — outside a take-away in the city centre in July last year.

Mr O'Neill said he was convinced that plastic bullets were being fired too fast last

summer. He said: "We made some calculations after the riots last summer and worked out that the bullets were travelling at about 168mph, which is much faster than the speed at which bullets are meant to be fired."

Republicans have consistently called for plastic bullets to be withdrawn because they claim that they are indiscriminate. The discovery of the defective plastic rounds came when development studies were being carried out. The manufacturer's tests had been approved as satisfactory.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she regretted that plastic bullets had been faulty: "I regret what has happened because it will cause distrust and worry in the community. It is a procurement problem for the MoD. As soon as we heard what had happened, we made it public."

Gallon a day for 20 years made major a tea addict

By ADRIAN LEE

AN ARMY officer's judgment was affected when he became addicted to enormous quantities of tea, a court martial heard yesterday.

Major David Senior, 45, a teetotaler, was suffering the classic symptoms of caffeineism — an addiction to tea or coffee — when he was alleged to have mishandled ration funds. He drank a gallon, or about 25 cups of tea a day. His condition emerged when he was sent home from a posting in Belize, Central America, and referred to a

psychiatrist, the hearing in Aldershot, Hampshire, was told. His addiction was confirmed by a second expert.

The major — decorated for his undercover work in Northern Ireland — had consumed enormous quantities of tea for all his adult life, said Charles Gabb, defending.

A married man with two children, the major was not dishonest, said Mr Gabb. He may have made a genuine mistake with paperwork because of his medical condition.

It was originally alleged that Major Senior took £19,000 from funds while

serving in Belize between December 1993 and November 1994. But Lieutenant Colonel Roger Lewis, for the prosecution, dropped eight theft charges after accepting that the major had not taken the money for himself. The officer, who was in charge of 25 Flight Army Air Corps, now faces three charges of false accounting and one of negligently handling funds. The major denies the revised charges.

Medical books state that the symptoms of caffeineism can include confusion, restlessness, nervousness, insomnia, sweating and palpitations.

In extreme cases sufferers experience panic attacks. In one recorded instance a soldier serving in the Indian Army was believed to have been blinded by drinking too much tea. Experts believe caffeineism is similar to alcoholism in that sufferers are the last to realise they have a problem.

In his book, *Coffee and Health*, Gerard Deby defines "high levels of caffeine intake" as ten cups of tea or coffee a day. Coffee contains twice as much caffeine as tea. A breakfast cup of tea contains about 25mg of caffeine. The hearing continues.

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TV & RADIO	46, 47	LETTERS	19	ARTS	33-35	SPORT	40-47
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	21	CHESS & BRIDGE	44	STYLE	16
CROSSWORDS	24, 48	SIMON JENKINS	18	COURT & SOCIAL	20	MEDIA & MARKETING	22

MPs must think carefully about what they want for the party

Now is the time for Tory MPs to be serious. The champagne and canapés phase of the leadership contest is over. The first round was tantalisingly inconclusive. Kenneth Clarke did not do well enough to establish a commanding position; William Hague was a strong second and now looks well placed; John Redwood surprised everyone in coming third, even if only four votes separated him from Peter Lilley and Michael Howard.

It was the messiest possible result for the Right, given that Mr

Redwood looked the least likely to beat either Mr Clarke or Mr Hague. Mr Clarke needs six more votes to be certain of being in the final round; Mr Hague needs 14 more votes, while Redwood needs to double his vote. But it is a gross oversimplification just to aggregate the votes of the three rightwingers, since the motives and loyalties of Tory MPs cannot be so neatly categorised.

After the damaging introspection of the past few weeks, Tory MPs should pause to think about where they want their party to go over the next few years. Do they

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

want to be trapped in an endless ideological battle and search for purity on Europe? Do they remember what happened to Labour during the 1980s? When the campaign started, Mr Clarke reminded his colleagues of the Denis Healey versus Michael Foot contest in 1980, and of the risk of the Tories taking the Foot option. Implicit in that was the warning against the Tories of behaving as self-destructively as

Labour did in 1980, and Mr Clarke might indeed be the Healey of the late 1990s. The choice is more complicated than in 1980 because of Mr Hague. That, of course, is his appeal now. Tory MPs also need to consider the views of their own supporters and of the public. The consultation process carried out by the National Union is very far from being a one member, one vote ballot. It is a survey of the party élite, whether peers, members of the European Parliament, and parliamentary constituency, area or Euro-constituency chairmen.

However, the results convey a uniform and overwhelming picture. There was a large majority in each group for Mr Clarke, with Mr Hague a strong second and the rest nowhere. The MEPs were unanimously for Mr Clarke, rather than the peers were for Lord Howe in 1963.

Moreover, each of the national polls has put Mr Clarke well in the lead both among the public as a whole and among Tory supporters. For the Tories to choose anyone but Mr Clarke or Mr Hague would be to ignore the clear views of both the public and

the party in the country, undermining the legitimacy of the new leader.

The other main question is which candidate would have the authority to challenge Tony Blair and to have a broad national appeal. Mr Redwood has so far only shown an ability to appeal to the Tory Right. Mr Hague has greater potential but is still only partly formed as a politician. Contrary to the jibes from the right, Mr Hague does have distinctive and thoughtful views. It is rather that he is untested politically. Mr Clarke is the obvi-

ous known figure. In a sense, he is the John Smith candidate, the battler with proven qualities who will take the fight to Labour.

Whoever becomes leader will inherit a bruised and divided party whose problems are likely to become worse in the short term. The main winner from the Tory contest is Mr Blair. He knows that the identity of the Tory leader will be less important in determining the result of the next election than whether Labour succeeds or fails in Government.

PETER RIDDELL

Party activists back Clarke and spurn the Eurosceptics

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

Kenneth Clarke swept the board in all five sections of the ballot of senior party activists, surprising even his own supporters by the margin of his victory. William Hague was once seen as the first choice of the grassroots members.

The former Chancellor gained more than 50 per cent in each section. He secured 608 votes, with Mr Hague second on 278. Michael Howard trailed badly in fifth place with only 26 — less than 3 per cent of the vote cast. Peter Lilley was third with 84 and John Redwood fourth with 49. But it was the scale of Mr Clarke's victory in the ballot of the constituency chairmen which was the most significant. The former Chancellor romped home with 369 votes, with Mr Hague in second place with 178 in the survey of the associations of England and Wales. The other three were way behind. Mr Redwood was third with 25 votes, Mr Lilley 20, and Mr Howard scored only ten.

The result was similar in Scotland where the Conservatives lost all their parliamenta-

GRASS ROOTS

ry seats in the general election and where the party's response to the new government's devolution plans will be critical to its recovery. Mr Clarke won the backing of 53 association chairmen, Mr Hague ten, and Mr Lilley two. There was embarrassment for Mr Howard and Mr Redwood who failed to secure a single vote.

The telephone poll was organised by the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, which runs the voluntary wing of the party. Each chairman consulted the local executive committee. Some had balloted their full membership.

The result, with the Right rejected, flatly contradicted the assertion that the Tory grassroots were Eurosceptic and crying out for a new Margaret Thatcher.

Both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague claimed that their runaway lead was evidence that only they could restore the Tories' popularity and unite the party. "It is now a two-horse race," said Mr Hague, speaking yesterday, well before Mr Howard and Mr

Lilley announced their withdrawal from the race last night, after the result of the first ballot of MPs.

The three losers argued that it was an unrepresentative ballot as constituencies such as Kensington and Chelsea, with 4,000 members, had the same solitary vote as constituencies with only ten members.

In the other three polls Mr Clarke came first among peers with 177 votes, Mr Hague second with 45, Mr Lilley third with 37, John Redwood scored 13 and Mr Howard ten.

The results were read to members of the 122 backbench committee of Conservative MPs by Sir Archibald Hamilton, the chairman, shortly before voting began at 10am yesterday. Roars of laughter could be heard from the committee room when it was announced that the 17 Tory Members of the European Parliament had unanimously backed Mr Clarke.

"We all fell off our perches when the Euro vote was announced," said David Wilshire, a Redwood supporter. "They were shouts of 'Turkeys don't vote for Christmas'."

The poll of the National Union executive and chairmen of the Euro-constituencies saw Mr Clarke ahead with 92 votes, Mr Hague 45, Mr Lilley 25, Mr Redwood 11 and Mr Howard six.

Robin Hodgson, the chairman of the National Union, said: "It would be a shame if MPs didn't take account of these figures. These are the views of the people who work for the party on the doorstep, day in and day out," he said.



Gillian Shephard lobbying Anthony Steen on behalf of Peter Lilley yesterday

Experience tells as Redwood springs surprise on his party

By Andrew Pierce

CHALLENGER

THE only Tory MPs who were not surprised by John Redwood's emergence as the first choice of the Thatcherite right were his own campaign team. Every other Tory MP on the right or left of the party had contemptuously consigned Mr Redwood to last place in the five-way battle.

But Mr Redwood had a spring in his step when he went to cast his vote as the ballot box opened at 10am. A piece of paper had been thrust into his hand before he left his office. It bore the figure 27.

It had been written down by Iain Duncan Smith, his campaign manager, and Hywel Williams, the director of his Conservative 2000 think tank, which was set up by the former Welsh Secretary after the 1995 contest. They were proved right.

The MPs who had written off Mr Redwood had underestimated the respect he had earned on the Tory right for his courage in challenging John Major in the 1995 leadership contest. "Fortune favours the brave," said Nicholas Winterbottom, who voted for Mr Redwood.

Mr Williams said: "This was a victory for two years of courage, clarity, and conviction."

Despite having the facilities of the Foundation at their disposal the Redwood campaign had a slow start. Nine of his original 13-strong team from 1995 were swept out of office in the rout of the Tory right on May 1. They had to begin from scratch.

The appointment of Mr Duncan Smith and Angela Browning, two highly respected rightwingers, as campaign managers was astute.

Mr Redwood did not try to compete with the slick presentation of the Hague camp. Instead he began an exhaustive round of one to one meetings with some 100 Tory MPs who were considered centre right supporters. He was the only candidate to invite all MPs to cross-examine him behind closed doors. More than 30 attended. A senior member of the Lilley team, who attended, said as he left: "It was a class act."

Another turning point was Mr Redwood's performance at a private meeting of 40 members of the rightwing 92 group of MPs last Thursday. All the candidates spoke. "Redwood was scintillating. He was direct, amusing, and unwavering," said Mr Duncan Smith.

Mr Redwood made clear he would apologise to the electorate for the mistakes of the last government, particularly on taxation, the exchange rate mechanism, and VAT on fuel. He was the only candidate to rule out once and for membership of a single currency. It struck a chord.

Mr Redwood had ham-

pered home the same message at a series of press conferences. Press coverage dipped. But the message was aimed at MPs and constituency activists not the media.

The day after the 92 Group meeting Mr Redwood picked up a clutch of new supporters. His campaign team declined to name the converts.

It was the reticence which prompted speculation that Redwood's team was in trouble. It was deliberate strategy. Despite the slow start Mr Redwood had earned plaudits from new members, and Eurosceptics, for backing the single currency revolt in the general election which was financed by Paul Sykes, the Yorkshire millionaire.

But the factor which most MPs overlooked was that Mr Redwood was the only candidate to have fought in a leadership campaign. "It was an invaluable experience. And



Redwood: won plaudits for smooth campaign

it showed," said a member of the Redwood team.

Ten students dressed as Mexicans, a Spanish guitar quartet, and a donkey called Michael Portillo yesterday disrupted television news broadcasts of the Tory leadership election. Amid chaotic scenes, they positioned themselves in front of the cameras on Abingdon Green outside Parliament as Tory MPs were interviewed about the result of the first ballot.

They waved placards backing Michael Portillo, the former Tory MP who was ousted at the general election, for the party leadership and sang Spanish songs. The placards said: "Portillo 4 Presidente" and "We love Miguel."

Early rumours they were young Conservatives from Streatham were scotched when it emerged that they worked for a satellite and cable comedy television channel.

1922 Committee poll results						
	Peers	MEPs	Constituency chairmen	Scottish chairmen	Euro-chairmen	Total
Kenneth CLARKE	177	17	269	53	92	608
William HAGUE	45	0	178	10	45	278
Michael HOWARD	10	0	10	0	6	26
Peter LILLEY	37	0	20	2	25	84
John REDWOOD	13	0	25	0	11	49
Turnout	61.3%	100%	87.3%	83.3%	83%	

Parties will go on

Continued from page 1
Edward Heath sailed up the corridor just in time. "I was the first Leader to come through by vote," he said. "Of course there was none of this nonsense we've had for the last six weeks. We didn't take anyone out for drinks or lunch."

Nobody was rude enough to suggest a reason why Sir Edward's campaign managers might have steered him away from this tactic. If the aim were to win a chap over, taking him out for a drink or lunch might backfire for Sir Edward.

The door to Committee Room 13, next door, was shut

fast throughout the day. Many Tories (including Sir Archie) chose this, and, wishing to cast their vote there, battled unsuccessfully with the lock. One left-winger suggested that the symbolically blocked option was a metaphor for the whole occasion. Chris Patten being within.

Others wondered whether Michael Portillo might be the hostage they could not reach, separated from his natural support by a heavy oak.

I prefer a different metaphor. A regional TV crew had assembled outside the wrong committee room altogether, and waited patiently there. In the nick of time they discovered that the meeting taking place inside was of no interest. They joined the rest of us rather late, relieved that they had now reached a place where something of earth-shattering importance was happening. Some of us were far from sure. Perhaps we were all outside the wrong door.

But whether or not there will ultimately be a Party, Mr Luff is right: in the immediate future there will be parties.

HOW THEY VOTED

SUPPORTERS of Kenneth Clarke were the most reluctant to break cover yesterday. The following is a list of those who revealed their choice.

Kenneth Clarke

Sir Norman Fowler, Quentin Davies, Michael Jack, Michael Mates, Sir George Young, John Gummer, John MacGregor, Tom King, Shaun Woodward, Andrew Rowe, Sir Peter Emery, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Keith Simpson, Ian Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris, Damian Green, David Curry, Sir John Stanley, John Butterfield, Virginia Bottomley, Nicholas Soames, Sir Ray Whitney, Sir Peter Lloyd, Tony Baldry, Stephen Dorrell, Douglas Hogg, Michael Heseltine, Sir Edward Heath, Sir David Mabel, Bob Waller, Kenneth Clarke, Robert Jackson, Alistair Goodlad, Richard Ottaway, John Greenway, Peter Luff, Sir Paul Beresford, Ann McIntosh, Sir Alan Haselhurst.

Number of unknown voters: 6

William Hague

James Clappison, Alan Duncan, Roger Gale, Sir Peter Tapsell, David Heathcoat-Amory, Nigel Evans, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Cheryl Gillan, Eleanor

HOW THEY VOTED

Laing, Peter Bottomley, David Atkinson, Dr Michael Clark, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Michael Ancram, James Gray, Nick Hawkins, Tim Loughton, Humphrey Malins, Malcolm Moss, Archie Norman, James Paice, David Prior, Jonathan Sayeed, Patrick McLoughlin, Bowen Wells, Michael Trend, Peter Ainsworth, Dominic Grieve, David Tredinnick, Ian Bruce, David Ruffley, Julie Kirkbride, Tim Yeo, Stephen Day, James Arbuthnot, Richard Page, John Maples, William Hague, Andrew Mackay.

Number of unknown voters: 2

John Redwood

Iain Duncan Smith, Julian Brazier, Andrew Robathan, Marion Roe, Teresa Gorman, Ann Winterton, Howard Flight, Julian Lewis, Charles Wardle, Angela Browning, John Townsend, Michael Faber, Bill Cash, John Wilkinson, Oliver Letwin, David Wilshire, Sir Teddy Taylor, Lawrence Robertson, Nicholas Winterton, John Redwood, John Hayes, Owen Paterson, Christopher Giller.

Number of unknown voters: 4

Peter Lilley

Ann Widdecombe, Bernard Jenkin, John Whittingdale,

HOW THEY VOTED

Gillian Shephard, David Willetts, Sir Patrick Cormack, Philip Hammond, Nicholas Gibb, Eric Forth, David Amess, Robert Key, Piers Merchant, Nigel Waterson, John Bercow, Nicholas St Aubyn, Richard Spring, Sir Michael Colvin, Gerald Howarth, Robert Symms, Andrew Tyrie, Peter Lilley, Brian Mawhinney.

Number of unknown voters: 2

Michael Howard

Sir Michael Spicer, David Faber, David Davis, James Cran, Simon Burns, Graham Brady, Andrew Lansley, John M. Taylor, Edward Leigh, David Lidington, Patrick Nicholson, Sir Archie Hamilton, Sir Richard Body, Francis Maude, Tim Collins, Liam Fox, Desmond Swayne, David Maclean, Christopher Chope, Michael Howard, Oliver Heald, Christopher Fraser.

Number of unknown voters: 1

Unknown

John Major, Alan Clark, Gary Streeter, Eric Pickles, Sir Sydney Chapman, Peter Brooke, Tim Boswell, Peter Viggers, Edward Garnier, Peter Atkinson, Theresa May, Caroline Spelman, John Horgan, Crispin Blunt, Michael Fallon, Anthony Steen.

MPs' vote

Continued from page 1
I intend to lead this party on an inclusive basis."

Mr Redwood immediately appealed to Mr Lilley and Mr Howard to pull out and swing behind him, saying that their supporters would find a "natural home" with him.

He added: "If Michael and Peter would like jobs in the Shadow Cabinet that I wish to form, yes, of course they can have jobs. I want to develop a common platform. I want to talk to them about what we need to put forward so that we can win this leadership for the right issues and the right causes."

Some of Mr Lilley's supporters were downcast. John Whittingdale said: "I have to say in some ways it is the worst result possible."

But John Townend, the chairman of the rightwing 92 Group and a Redwood supporter, said: "I'm delighted. The three rightwing candidates have got 74 votes. It's clear that Ken Clarke — who would not be able to unite the party because of his extreme views on Europe — can't win now."

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Orchestrated protest drowns opera

Villagers conduct angry counterpoint with lawnmower and light aircraft

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN Joseph Haydn wrote his little-performed opera *Le pescatore*, he did not score it for lawnmower, strimmers, car alarm and light aircraft. But they were unscheduled contributors to this year's opening performance of Garsington's ninth opera season.

The Oxfordshire village has never been entirely at ease with the annual festival of culture run by Leonard Ingrams, brother of Richard, the former editor of *Private Eye*, in the grounds of his Jacobean manor house. At Monday night's inaugural performance, the village again decided to make itself heard.

Hardly had the 22-piece orchestra struck the opening bars of the overture when it found itself competing with the drone of a sit-on motor mower from a nearby house. Then, in a higher pitch, three strimmers added their whine. The bass notes were provided by the arrival of a single-engine aircraft which buzzed the open-air auditorium. Finally, a screeching car alarm provided nerve-jangling counterpoint. The alarm may have been an accident; the other sound-effects were not.

During the Glyndebourne-style 85-minute dinner interval between the first two acts, all went miraculously quiet.

But as orchestra and singers launched into the second half, the grass-cutting band struck up again. The audience of 400, which had paid £70-£90 each, appeared to adopt an attitude of defiance, cheering and applauding after every aria.

Several of the lead players in the rival band were happy



Rosalind Ingrams: hoping for a compromise. "With a little goodwill, these problems can be sorted out"

to own up yesterday. On motor mower was Monica Waud, a 44-year-old social worker who lives opposite the manor, has three acres of grass to cut and is a long-standing opponent of the opera festival.

"I have lived here since 1986, and the noise has got progressively worse," she

said. "We all snapped in 1993 when the number of performances went up to 15. This year it's 20, spread over four weeks. The noise drives us bananas; it has completely ruined the village."

"This used to be a really nice village, where everybody mucked in and got on well, but the opera now makes it so

unpleasant. The noise goes on for 11 weeks, including setting-up and rehearsals." During a performance it was like having a hi-fi in the garden with the sound turned full up.

Paul Hunter, a 42-year-old business consultant, did not cut grass on Monday night but sympathised with those who did. "The performances sound like supermarket muzak; the wind distorts the sound, making it highly unpleasant. Opera is a spectacle which you only appreciate if you see it; we residents might as well be listening to Metallica."

Paul Giangrande, a 42-year-old consultant haematologist who shares Ms Waud's home, was the pilot of the aircraft. "I might fly a twin-engine plane next time," he said yesterday. "It's not the music I object to; it's the noise they make setting up the performance. It's too much; there has been no attempt at compromise."

Mr Ingrams complained yesterday to South Oxfordshire District Council's environmental health department about the extraneous noise. But he also held peace talks with Mr Giangrande. Mr Ingrams said that they had agreed better lines of communication and in return there would be no more overflying.

"Everything possible has been done to contain the noise within the manor grounds, including the erection of lead-lined sound baffles behind the stage," he said. "We are well within our sound guidelines. In any village there are people who are anti-manor."

One of Monday night's strimmer operators, who declined to give his name, said: "I'm not anti-manor - I'm anti-bad-manners." Mr In-



Monica Waud with the noise monitor: performances were "like a hi-fi in the garden with the sound full up"

grams's wife, Rosalind, in a determined attempt at diplomacy, said: "I hope we will be able to come to some compromise and keep everybody happy."

"I do try and put myself in the position of people living near by. We have tried to address the problem of the noise - it's not the performances but the setting up.

With a little goodwill, these problems can be sorted out."

Garsington Opera, which numbers Michael and Anne Heselgrave among its patrons, has had a history of conflict with villagers. Earlier this year, after a long legal battle which eventually went all the way to John Gummer, then Environment Secretary, Mr Ingrams won planning per-

mission to erect his stage for the next seven years.

But he still has to apply each year for an entertainment licence from the local council. South Oxfordshire has not only imposed strict noise conditions but has increased the licence fee from £460 last year to £12,400 this year.

The council set up a micro-

phone in Ms Waud's house to monitor noise levels. Did *Le pescatore* break the guidelines on Monday night? "It was impossible to measure," Gary Vail, the council's environmental health manager, said yesterday.

"There was too much extraneous noise."

Review, page 33

Mystery tour driver gets his signals crossed

By JOANNA BALE

LEAVES on the line and the wrong kind of snow are the archetypal excuses for late trains. A driver with a poor sense of direction has come up with another: he got lost.

Commuters exchanged puzzled glances after a rush-hour train from Bristol to Swansea suddenly veered onto a track through the Welsh countryside. When it finally ground to a halt in a dead-end siding, the guard announced: "We apologise for the delay but we seem to be lost."

Yesterday, Great Western Trains offered compensation to passengers who arrived nearly two hours late for work after a signalling error diverted their train from the main London to South Wales line.

Robert Davies, a commuter travelling from Cardiff to Swansea, said: "I've never known anything like it. How on earth can a train driver get lost?"

Mr Davies, a chef, had caught the train at Cardiff at 7.57am on Monday in time to get to work in Neath. Then it took the wrong turning at Briton Ferry, near Port Talbot. "I take this train every day and I noticed immediately that we were taking a different route than usual. I just thought we were taking a detour so I didn't worry about it. It was

quite a nice morning and the scenery was very pretty.

"After 30 minutes of travelling through hills and valleys we stopped at a dead end siding. We sat there for another half an hour wondering what on earth was going on, then the guard came and told us we were lost."

He said things "really went off the rails" when the guard said they would have to wait for a new driver to arrive before the train could leave.

A spokeswoman for the train company said yesterday: "Our train did go the wrong way and we are investigating to find out how it happened. The driver might not have been used to the route and may not have noticed he was going the wrong way for a while."

"We are pursuing the matter with Railtrack who do the signalling on the line. It seems probable that they gave the wrong signal to the driver who has to follow those signals."

A Railtrack spokeswoman said: "The train went the wrong way because it followed one of our signals which was not set correctly. The signal was in this position following an earlier incident when a freight train had a problem with an axle and had to change tracks."

Thief paid back stolen cash from Dettori win

A CLERK who stole £23,000 from her employer paid it back after winning £75,000 on the jockey Frankie Dettori's seven-horse winning streak.

When her thefts were uncovered, Susan Harrison astonished police by announcing that she would reimburse American Express from her winnings. However, her repayments failed to save her from prison. She was jailed for three months after admitting stealing the money from an in-house travel agency at the computer company IBM in Cosham, Hampshire.

Harrison, 38, of Portsmouth, stole the money, usually in £1,000 bundles, after making bogus invoices for executives' travelling expenses Stephen Parish, for the defence, said that she had intended to return the money, but became "embroiled in temptation". She began gambling on horses and the National Lottery to raise what she owed.

Last September the former apprentice stable girl placed a £35.52 combination bet on Dettori, who was riding at Ascot, winning all seven races in one day - a feat that had never been done before. When she was arrested in February she told police that she would write a cheque for the entire amount that was missing.

Polar duo go with the floe in 92 days

THE first Britons to walk to the North Pole unpaid told yesterday of how the 520-mile route grew to 1,200 miles.

Stephen Martin and David Mitchell, who were reunited with their families at Heathrow, overcame hazardous terrain, drifting ice and temperatures of minus 50C to reach their goal in 92 days.

"One day we travelled for ten hours and when we put the positioning system on we found we had gone back one mile," Mr Mitchell, 34, a climber and electrician from Walsdale, Cumbria, said.

"We covered about 1,200 miles and the actual distance is only 520 miles," Dr Martin



On ice: Stephen Martin, left, and David Mitchell

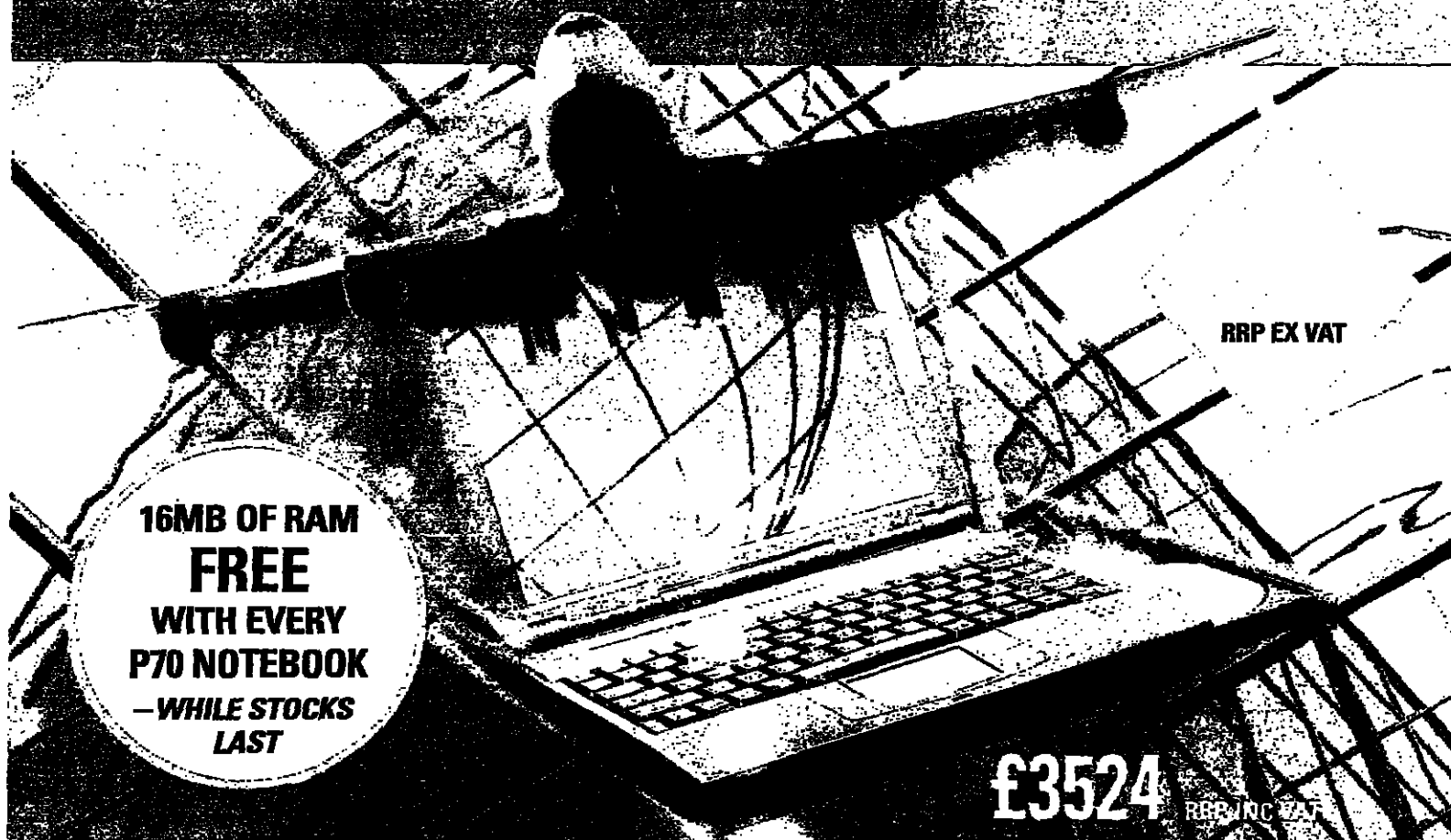
said that at times "for every mile we travelled we had to cover three because we would pull one of the sledges together for a mile, walk back for the other one and then walk another mile to get back to the first".

Dr Martin, 41, a locum GP from Ashbourne, Derbyshire, added: "We always thought it would be a test of

our sense of humour rather than anything else." The trip was his last.

The two men, who failed in a similar attempt in 1994, praised the explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes for his support. Sir Ranulph, whose attempt to reach the Pole earlier this year was ended by ill-health, was first to congratulate them by e-mail.

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Cookson gift saves Hatton Gallery

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Hatton Gallery, at Newcastle University, has been saved from closure by a £250,000 donation from the novelist Dame Catherine Cookson.

Dame Catherine, a Tyne-sider, has promised £50,000 for each of the next five years, and presented university officials with the first instalment yesterday. The gallery, which opened in 1920, houses one of the most extensive university collections in the country. Including work by the German-born Dadaist Kurt Schwitters. A proposal last month that it was to close to save the university £40,000 provoked dismay from art lovers in the region and anger from academics at the university's department of fine art. Despite their vigorous pro-

test campaign, the university's council confirmed the closure decision at a private meeting on Monday night, although it did announce that it would seek outside help. Officials later disclosed that £100,000 a year was needed to keep the gallery open.

Last night Professor Richard Bailey, the university's pro-Vice Chancellor, said that Dame Catherine, who is 90, had made "an enormously generous gesture, and we are extremely grateful to her. Now with her help we can revitalise the gallery and make it even more central to the arts on Tyneside and in the region."

"It is now a challenge to the many supporters of the Hatton Gallery to match her generosity, but we are delighted with her splendid gift. The



Dame Catherine Cookson is to donate £250,000 to the gallery at Newcastle University

Hatton has been given a second chance and if not actually saved as yet it is well on its way to a rebirth. We need about £100,000 a year and we are now getting together a business plan. Dame Catherine contacted us after reports of our difficulties reached her. The university is to contact various organisations for funds. In the 1980s, Dame Catherine

gave the gallery £25,000 for refurbishment. She has also set up a foundation for the benefit of the university which will eventually provide a £1 million fund. Four years ago, Dame Catherine gave £100,000 to help set up a liver unit at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Professor Bailey said: "She's always been generous to the university; part of our medical

school is named after her. She's been very helpful with funding medical research. She's helped us in the library and given a great deal of support to students." Bill Varley, a fine arts lecturer who had campaigned against the closure, was "overjoyed" at the news. He said: "My feelings are of sheer ecstasy. It is quite simply a phenomenal gesture."

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA gunmen ambush Londonderry soldiers

Gunmen opened fire on two soldiers travelling in an unmarked car on the outskirts of Londonderry just before midday yesterday. A white Ford Transit van pulled out in front of the soldiers as they drove from the city towards the border with the Irish Republic. As the soldiers halted, the doors of the van swung open and three terrorists opened fire. The Army said the car was not hit and denied a claim by the IRA that it had injured one of the soldiers.

The shooting was the second IRA attack since the terrorists ended their unofficial ceasefire on May 31, a tactic aimed at maximising Sinn Féin's vote in the general and local elections in Northern Ireland.

Blair tough on borders

Tony Blair will tell President Chirac in Paris today that retaining control of British borders is the minimum he will demand for negotiating a deal at the Amsterdam summit. He is also pressing for new wording in the employment chapter to allow job flexibility and an assurance against a move towards a common European defence policy. The Prime Minister will speak to as many European leaders as possible before the summit.

Animal transport rule

Road hauliers and traders who flout new European rules on transporting farm animals will be banned from carrying livestock, the Government said. The regulations, which will take effect on July 1, set uniform limits throughout the European Union on the length of time animals can be transported without being rested, fed and watered. The rules should have come into force on January 1, but were delayed by the last Government.

Sentence is halved

A nursery nurse jailed for punching and nearly blinding a retired major-general had her sentence halved to six months in the Court of Appeal. Debbie Blatze, 21, had her appeal for a retrial refused but was told by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, that she was entitled to assurance that her defence, in which she claimed she was racially abused by Major-General Richard Gerrard-Wright, had not contributed to the length of her sentence.

Teenage nanny cleared

A teenage nanny accused of assaulting a boy of 2 was cleared at Northampton Crown Court. Stacey Spence, 19, of Thrapston, Northamptonshire, had been charged with actual bodily harm after the boy's parents found a bruise across his bottom. A defence witness said the mark could have been caused by falling on a toy. Miss Spence, who looked after the boy and his sister, 5, for five months, said she had only ever given the boy "a light tap".

'Private' NHS hospitals

Work will start later this year on the first two of a series of hospitals to be built for the National Health Service with private money. The Government is to announce a list of several other priority projects, chosen from among 35 already under negotiation. Work on them should start within 18 months. The plan, announced yesterday by Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, was aimed at proving that the Private Finance Initiative could work.

Carers win £400,000

A group of women workers who look after the elderly have won a £400,000 out-of-court settlement in an equal-pay fight against their council employers. The 28 women, all sheltered housing wardens with Durham City Council, will also benefit from changes in their employment conditions which equate to a 35 per cent pay increase. But yesterday, as details of their victory were announced, council chiefs said the deal could provoke job losses.

Cenotaph attacker

A schizophrenic man who slashed a clergyman across the face during a Remembrance Day service was ordered to be detained indefinitely in a psychiatric hospital. Donald MacLeod, 54, was in full battle dress when he attacked the Rev John MacPherson at the cenotaph in Scourie, Sutherland. Mr MacPherson needed 16 stitches. The High Court in Edinburgh was told that MacLeod believed the minister had offended a friend.

Girl bullies detained

Two teenage girl bullies were sent to a detention centre for three months yesterday for their part in a savage attack on a schoolmate who later killed herself. Passing sentence at Stornoway Sheriff Court on Michelle McBratney, 17, and Lee Ann Murray, 16, Sheriff Ian Cameron told the sobbing pair they had "evil" ensured that Katherine Jane Morrison, 16, could not safely walk the streets of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Hunt lobby stages rally

Supporters of fox hunting are hoping to attract up to 100,000 people to a rally in London next month to protest against possible moves by the Government to ban their sport. The British Field Sports Society, which is organising the event in Hyde Park, says that 500 coaches and seven trains have already been hired by hunts and other countryside groups to bring in supporters on July 10. A series of cross-country marches is also planned.

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Airline denies loss of Union flag on tailfins will diminish 'Britishness'



Concorde retains a stylised Union flag on its tailfin. Other designs on the remainder of the fleet include those from, left to right, the Kalahari Desert, Ireland and Poland

BA takes ethnic route in £60m bid to stay in front around the world

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE heraldic crest on the tailfins of British Airways' international fleet is giving way to art from around the world. Sources include a remote South African village, a council flat in Poland and the Kalahari Desert.

The designs by painters, sculptors, weavers and calligraphers are the result of a six-month hunt for the best of the world's ethnic art. The revamp is part of a £60 million attempt by British Airways to give it a truly global image. The first 15 designs were put on display yesterday in a worldwide launch in 63 countries linked by satellite.

The airline denies it will lose its essential "Britishness", pointing out that the Union flag - in stylised form - will remain on the tailfin of Concorde, BA's flagship. It insists that if it is to continue to compete as an international airline, it must have an international image.

The Transport and General Workers Union, which is currently balloting two sets of BA staff on possible strike action, said the airline should attend to its industrial relations rather than its image.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the new design was essential if the airline was to continue to compete in the next century. "Some people abroad saw the airline as staid, conservative and a little cold," he said. "To continue to be the world leader we have to do again what we did in the last decade - put clear blue sky between us and our rivals."

"Some people are suggesting we might in some way be turning our backs on Britain. This is not true. We are building on our Britishness, adding to the best traditional British attributes our nation's more modern values of friendliness, diversity and our open and cosmopolitan outlook."

The new corporate identity, which includes a softer colour scheme, a new "speedmarque" to replace the existing sharp speeding design on the fuselage, and the ethnic art on the tail fins, was given the blessing of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, at a champagne reception for over



Identical twins Emmly and Martha Masanabo, from South Africa, stand under their brightly coloured mural design, which adorns the tail of a BA jumbo jet

made by a company based in the Royal Docks in Chatham, Kent, which has made flags for more than 400 years.

Peter Cornwall, director of the Admiral's Original Flag Loft, said: "It makes me proud to see our flag used on the

Art world's view: from sublime to ridiculous

BY DALYA ALBERGEL AND NEIL GRAVES

THE new look for British Airways planes drew some strange looks from the art and design community yesterday. "It looks like an I-Spy guide to world culture," Gill Hedley, director of the Contemporary Art Society, said. "Most countries are patronised by it. Tartan is a cliché. I don't see what it's got to do with Scotland in 1997. The whole of Germany is summed up with something that looks like a lino kitchen floor."

Brian Sewell, art critic of the London Evening Standard, said: "This is lunacy. If BA stands for anything, it is a corporate image. The design should be related to the image. There is nothing here that is identifiable."

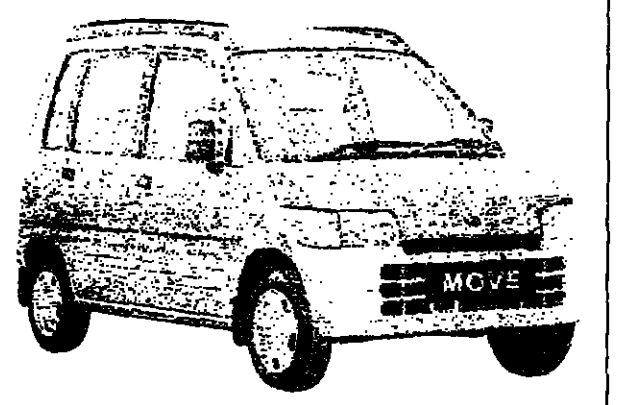
David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, asked: "Are they seriously proposing to run all these at the same time? Some of the individual designs are attractive and striking, like the eagle woodcarving. Others seem to be pretty corny, like the tartan for Scotland. Overall, it seems extravagant and confusing."

There was praise from the artist Peter Blake. "Like David Hockney, I may be involved in the scheme and am happy to be. It's an exciting venture. When it's simple and emblematic, it works best."

Richard Cork, art critic of The Times, said: "Artists have long been inspired by flight. It's high time that planes repay the compliment."

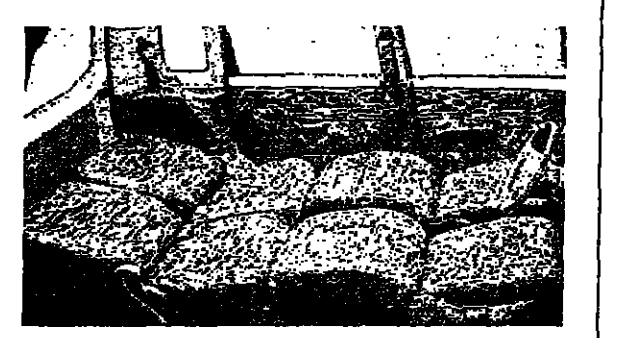
Will Whitehorn, a director of the Virgin Group, said: "Our logo cost nothing to design: it was someone's writing in 1978. We've built it into an international name and it works well in all the languages it encounters."

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Design partners delight in their marriage of ideas

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE award-winning design consultancy which directed British Airways' facelift is run by a husband and wife team who have a reputation for drawing on a bold and eclectic range of ideas.

Since Frances Newell and John Sorrell set up their firm in 1976, they have designed some of the best-known corporate logos in Britain and created striking campaigns to transform company images. The agency was behind the InterCity swallow, sleeker versions of the traditional AA and Schweppes logos and the multimillion-pound revamps of W.H. Smith, the Post Office and Parcofforce.

British Airways approached Newell and Sorrell in 1995 and awarded the contract after bids from three other consultancies. "They have a reputation for being a cut above the rest in their way of thinking," Lynda Relf-Knight, editor of Design Week, said yesterday. The firm seeks to increase the

sources from which its 60 staff can draw inspiration by arranging six-weekly lectures on subjects unrelated to design.

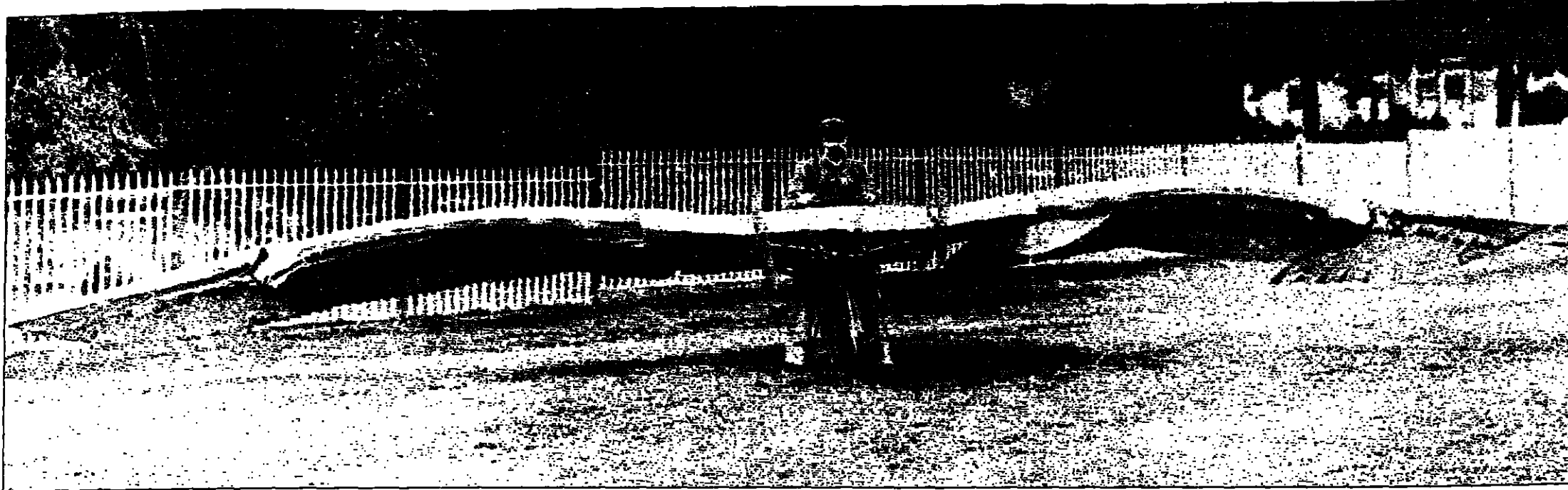
Speakers in what is known as the Utopian Nights programme have included the former hostage Brian Keenan, Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman, the fashion designer Paul Smith and Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, creators of the children's television programmes Bagpuss and The Clangers. Prue Leith, the cook, will give a lecture next Wednesday.

"Frances said to me we must constantly seek inspiration, so we thought we'd invite inspiring people to talk to us," Mr Sorrell said yesterday.

Since 1994, Mr Sorrell has been the first designer appointed chairman of the Design Council. In the same year, the agency became the first to receive more than one Design Effectiveness Award from the Design Business Association, winning four.

John Sorrell and Frances Newell: lectures for staff

Mystery of the magnificent man and his flying machine



THIS curious photograph of what looks like a winged bicycle has baffled the company that built it. It is known that it was taken on the Town Moor, Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1914, but nobody at the Vickers engineering firm knows what the contraption was, why it was built or the identity of the pilot with the handlebar moustache.

The photograph was discovered in the archives during research for the company's 150th anniversary this year. Peter McKenzie, the Vickers archivist, said: "We have labelled the picture 'The Bird Man', but no one has any idea of its significance."

Most of the photographs in the archives are of historic tanks and aircraft. There is also one of a visit to Tyne-side by Ulysses S. Grant in 1877, when he was President of the United States.

Hubble tracks train wreck in deep space

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Hubble space telescope has photographed the debris of two exploding stars colliding in a galaxy 17 million light years away. It is the first time such a collision between supernovas has been seen.

The Hubble images also solve a mystery that has puzzled astronomers since a very bright object was spotted, using Earth-based instruments, in a galaxy called NGC 6946. The object appeared to be a young supernova, a star much more massive than the Sun, destroying itself in a huge explosion, but analysis showed that it contained the wrong mixture of elements and was expanding too slowly.

The greater resolution of the Hubble's wide field and planetary camera solved the problem. It showed that the bright object was in fact the result of material hurled from two supernovas colliding "like a

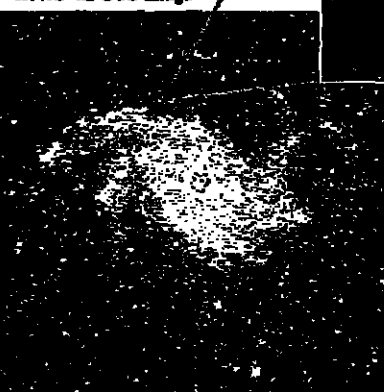
train wreck", according to Dr William Blair, an astrophysicist from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who led the team which reported the finding yesterday at the American Astronomical Society meeting in Boston.

Astronomers had predicted that such events could occur, but they are so short-lived that none had been observed directly before. When a supernova explodes, gas and debris are thrown in all directions at speeds of up to 22 million miles an hour, producing a shock wave that compresses the material into an expanding "shell".

In this case, the two supernovas were about 40 light years apart in a galaxy in the constellation of Cepheus. Six supernovas have been observed in the galaxy since 1917; supernova explosions have also been known there, so the

Galaxy NGC 6946
(17 million light years away)

Ground-based
EPNO 400 CCD image



HST/WFPC2 image of
colliding Supernova Remnants

Twin blasts from the past: Hubble has revealed the explosion to be not one supernova, but two colliding

possibility of two happening close enough for the debris to collide was predictable, but had never been observed.

"It's the first time we have identified one of these interactions right when the shells are in the process of slamming into each other," Dr Blair said. "The reason why this object is so bright is that we caught it at a very specific time in its evolution. And Hubble's reso-

lution is what allowed us to see it."

The galaxy in which the event has been observed is spiral-shaped, like the Milky Way, but only about half as large. The frequency of supernovas indicates that not only are stars being formed there very rapidly, but that many of them are massive, otherwise they would not form supernovas.

Canterbury Cathedral to charge on Sundays

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CANTERBURY Cathedral, the mother church of the worldwide Anglican communion, is to become the first cathedral in Britain to charge for entry on Sundays.

Officials at Canterbury, the centre of recent celebrations marking the 1,400th anniversary of St Augustine's arrival on the shores of England, say that the charge is required for safety reasons, to assist crowd control.

St Paul's Cathedral and Ely Cathedral also charge for entry during the week. But admission to Ely on Sundays is free, while most of St Paul's is roped off to all visitors except worshippers on Sundays. At Westminster Abbey, a £4 admission charge is to be introduced next year to aid crowd control, but the charges will not apply on Sundays; the abbey is not open to tourists on Sundays.

The Sunday fee at Canterbury will be introduced on

July 6, although what officials describe as "genuine worshippers" will continue to be admitted without charge. Last year, more than 1.7 million tourists visited the largely Gothic cathedral, whose earliest part was built in the 11th century. Numbers this year are expected to be even higher, with many people wanting to take part in the Augustine celebrations and see exhibits on loan to the cathedral, such as relics of the martyred saint Thomas à Becket.

Interest is such that the Dean and Chapter fear that the numbers visiting are reaching dangerously high levels. David Earlam, cathedral spokesman, said: "There are some times, particularly on the pulpit and the steps, when the pressure of numbers does give cause for concern. It has led to disruptive and occasionally dangerous overcrowding in the cathedral."

Referring to the 1989 football stadium disaster, he said: "We all have the spectre of Hillsborough in the back of our minds. We are not extending the charges for extra revenue. We are doing it for safety reasons and so that people can appreciate the cathedral more."

Charges for weekday and Saturday visitors were introduced two years ago, but it soon became apparent that Sunday was the second busiest day of the week, with up to 7,000 people visiting during the summer months. The £2 charge will be made between 11.30am and 2pm on Sundays, as well as weekdays, until October.

Mr Earlam said: "This gives time after the morning service and before evensong for people to have a look around. Genuine worshippers, or people wanting to say a quiet prayer will of course be admitted without charge. Our staff are trained to

distinguish those people from tourists."

Free admission remains for those attending services, residents with pre-set passes who live within four miles of the cathedral, workers within the city of Canterbury and Church of England members from the Canterbury diocese.

As at Canterbury on Sundays, the charges at Westminster Abbey are to be introduced as part of a wider scheme to restore calm. The abbey, unlike many churches and cathedrals, is flush with funds.

Mr Earlam said: "It can be very busy in the cathedral on Sundays. Sometimes we do have problems with overcrowding and noise. It can make it difficult for people to be contemplative. It will generate a lot of income but that is not why we are doing it on Sundays, although it was the reason we introduced charges originally."

90% of all trapped animals aren't trapped for their fur

Shouldn't we care about their welfare too?

Environment Control

All over the world, animal populations need to be controlled in order to protect agricultural land, flora and fauna, and to prevent the transmission of diseases such as rabies, etc. Trapping is frequently the most effective method of control and goes on in virtually every country. Here in Europe, over 5 million animals are trapped each year.

International Standards

Surprisingly, no international standards exist to evaluate whether the traps used here in Europe, or anywhere else in the world, are in fact, humane.

Now for the first time, the European Union has the opportunity to approve an International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards.

The Draft Agreement

Less than 10% of all trapped animals are actually taken for fur. Recognising this fact, the Agreement makes no distinction between

reasons why animals are trapped - it seeks to ensure that humane trapping standards will apply in all trapping situations. Under the Agreement, all traps for a total of 19 species (12 of which are trapped in the EU) will be assessed scientifically so that inhumane traps can be identified and replaced within a tight time frame. It will also promote research into the continuing development of new, more humane trapping systems.

Breakthrough for Animal Welfare

On 19/20 June, EU Environment Ministers from the 15 Member States will meet to consider this draft International Agreement. The Agreement is a world first and presents a long-awaited opportunity for EU governments to take action to improve trapping on a worldwide basis.

Its positive impact on animal welfare will be felt not only in third countries, but also here in the EU.

We urge the UK Government to approve this Agreement



Fur Education Council

International Fur Trade Federation



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Toddler drank from beaker left by addict mother

Baby Daniel and the fatal dose of heroin substitute

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, STEPHEN FARRELL AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE short and sad life story of a child killed by a combination of neglect and curiosity in his drug-addict mother's flat was told to a coroner's court yesterday.

Only police and doctors were there to hear how 15-month-old Daniel Fitzpatrick died after drinking the heroin substitute methadone on February 24 last year. His mother Sinead Fitzpatrick, 19, an Irish stable girl who came to London four years ago after becoming bored with life in Co Meath, ignored a summons and pleas from friends to attend St Pancras Coroner's Court in north London.

Her boyfriend, Ricky Williamson, a heroin addict who introduced her to the drug, had a "bad leg", and she would not go without him.

The coroner, Stephen Chan, said he was not going to issue a warrant for her arrest because she had suffered enough. Although Daniel's death was at least partly

caused by her "ineptitude, fatuousness and obtuseness", he said she was "a much troubled lady who has enough problems as it is. No doubt she too has suffered and will have to live with these tragic consequences for the rest of her life." He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

In a statement read to the inquest, Miss Fitzpatrick, of Tuftnell Park, north London, said she had poured herself a 40ml dose of methadone after feeling ill, and drank most of it. She said she left the remaining 4ml, half a teaspoonful, in a measuring container on a table.

Later, she realised that her son had drunk it when she caught him licking the green liquid off his fingers. "I saw Danny with the beaker in his hand which he had picked up from the coffee table."

The drug had been prescribed to her. She had recently learnt she was pregnant again and it was to help her to

kick her heroin addiction to protect the unborn child.

Daniel, a lively, intelligent and active boy who, despite being born with a club foot, was beginning to learn to kick a ball, licked his fingers and fell asleep with a smile on his face.

"I wasn't unduly worried as Danny did not show any change in his attitude," she said. Fearful that social workers would take her son and, eventually, her unborn child away from her, she had decided not to call an ambulance. Daniel, who had been born after a previous relationship, cuddled up to Mr Williamson. Hours passed.

When Mr Williamson awoke, he saw Daniel was in distress, but he had taken "so much gear" that his memory was hazy, he later told police.

In his statement, Mr Williamson, an unemployed labourer from Renfrewshire, described their panic. "We were getting paranoid about

his behaviour. Daniel was breathing deeply and there were weird noises coming from him, like snoring. He would sometimes open his eyes and he wasn't focusing."

"What made us most concerned was the colour of his lips. They were purple. Also, any time we picked him up there was no movement, he was like a doll. If I held up his head it would fall backwards or forwards."

But when ambulance paramedics were finally called — eight hours after the dose had been taken — Mr Williamson refused to go with them, saying he hated hospitals, and sat smoking a cigarette as they rushed Daniel away.

Miss Fitzpatrick, distraught, returned to Ireland to have her second child, a daughter, who has been fostered to her sister.

Dr Chan said there was no direct evidence of neglect or that the delay had caused Daniel's death. The child had

not been on the at-risk register and the Crown Prosecution Service was to take no action.

Dr Chan said of Miss Fitzpatrick's actions: "Whether it is through sheer ineptitude, faroussness, obtuseness or foolishness, it did not occur to her to consult her doctor or hospital until it was too late."

Her foolishness on this one occasion did not amount to neglect in the legal sense of the word although the consequences were disastrous nonetheless."

Freddy Patel, a consultant pathologist at Guy's Hospital, said that a post-mortem examination showed Daniel was

clearly a well-nourished and well-cared-for baby. The level of methadone in his body was roughly consistent with the mother's account. He gave the cause of death as methadone toxicity.

After the inquest, Daniel's childminder, Freddie Habibus, welcomed the verdict, saying Daniel's mother had suffered enough and had failed to attend the inquest through terror of going to prison.

"She would have never done anything to hurt him, but she was a drug addict and you can never tell how they are going to behave," she said.

ANDRE CAMARA



Daniel's childminder, Freddie Habibus, with a picture of him. Despite having a club foot, he had begun to kick a ball

New painkiller speeds recovery from surgery

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A POWERFUL new painkiller that leaves patients wide awake within minutes of surgery is expected to increase the efficiency of operating theatres and lead to fewer operations being cancelled at short notice.

The drug, remifentanyl, will enable theatres to deal with patients at a faster rate and reduce the need for long recovery in intensive care. It has completed its clinical trials and already been used successfully on more than 3,000 patients.

Emergency use of intensive care beds is often the reason for surgery cancellations. A remifentanyl trial at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, found that 80 per cent of those who were anaesthetised with it did not need intensive care and the number of planned operations that had to be cancelled fell from three a week to one a month.

Dr Gilbert Park, a consultant anaesthetist at Addenbrooke's, said: "This represents a major change in the way we carry out operations. This is a benefit for the patient, for the staff and for the taxpayer."

The drug replaces other injected painkillers, such as morphine, used by anaesthetists in preparing patients for operations. Traditional painkillers numb the normal reflexes, causing breathing difficulties, so patients need to be on a ventilator until the effects wear off.

Until now, surgeons have preferred to rely on a blend predominantly of sedatives and painkillers to minimise the danger of adverse effects during recovery. Even so it

takes four hours for the effects of morphine-type drugs to reduce by a half, so patients need to be on a ventilator in an intensive-care unit overnight so that their breathing can be monitored.

The effects of the new drug wear off within five minutes of its withdrawal. This ends the danger of complications and the need for intensive care. Because it successfully kills the pain of the operation it also means that less sedative is needed, which also speeds recovery.

The drug works because it is a chemical bond which is quickly and easily destroyed by all the enzymes in the body. Morphine, however, can only be broken down by the enzymes in the liver so it has to work its way through the entire system before it ceases to have any effect.

Dr Park said that even after a four-hour operation patients anaesthetised with the new drug were able to have the tube connecting them to a ventilator removed after 25 minutes. This reduced the danger of pneumonia and overcame breathing difficulties.


"We had one patient filmed for television while he was being operated on to replace his aorta," Dr Park said. "He was able to sit up in bed a little later that day and watch the programme."

The drug, developed by GlaxoWellcome with the trade name Ultiva, costs £5.50 for a milligram, which is enough to kill pain effectively for up to two hours. Morphine sells for only a few pence, but time in intensive care can cost up to £500 a day.

People found it handy for jotting things down. But soon their imaginations far outreached the pencil's functionality. There were stopgap innovations at first. The typewriter. The calculator. The word processor. Then at last, the PC was born — and so too the need for a software platform to release its full potential.

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With Windows, even mobile users far away from their network could continue working productively as if they were still sitting in their office. But, while all this innovation provides significant benefits, we recognise that there are costs associated with it. Our mission? To continue to enhance the rich functionality of Windows-based computing, while containing and reducing the cost of ownership. It's called the Zero Administration for Windows Initiative — a long-term plan that over time will bring you a far better way to deploy and manage your organisation's desktops. Already we have announced the Zero Administration Kit. This is a set of tools, available this summer, to help simplify PC management and bring down cost of ownership by giving you a new level of control over your Microsoft Windows and Microsoft® Windows NT® Workstation-based computers. But this is just another step along the way. With each announcement we make, and every new product we release, you'll see that you really can have the best of both worlds — the rich Windows environment your users need, at a cost you can live with. And that's exactly the point.


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Primary pupils near bottom of world maths class

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR, AND DAVID CHARTER

PRIMARY school children in England are slipping down the international league in mathematics, according to a survey published yesterday. A minister said the report underlined the need to focus teaching on basic subjects.

Tests of nine-year-olds in mathematics showed English pupils lagging behind those in Eastern Europe, the Far East, the United States and Ireland. The results placed England and Scotland in the bottom third of the 17 countries taking part in the exercise.

English children fared much better in science, as they did in a survey of 13-year-olds published last year. Only Japan, Korea and the United States did significantly better.

The final results from the Third International Mathematics and Science Study showed that although English children beat most of their rivals in geometry and data analysis, they lagged behind in the use of whole numbers, fractions and estimation.

Among questions that nearly half the English children could not answer was: what is five fewer than 20?

A government taskforce on how to improve numeracy has already been appointed. By 2002, ministers want 75 per cent of 11-year-olds to reach targets in mathematics, compared with the present 55 per cent. In English, they want 80 per cent to meet the expected

Lessons for teenagers in how to be good parents help to improve pupils' relationships with their own parents and teachers, researchers said yesterday. In five schools around Manchester, pupils who took parenthood studies felt that they better understood the responsibilities and skills needed, the Gulbenkian Foundation trial showed. John Duncanson, head of Cardinal Langley School, Rochdale, said that the lessons improved general achievement. "It may look like you are taking time from academic study but the personal and social education helps to build relationships at school."

level; last year 58 per cent did. Estelle Morris, a minister for school standards, yesterday asked the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority for advice on how primary schools could improve numeracy and literacy teaching. "The survey shows only too clearly how much we have to do to raise standards in maths," she said.

The Government favoured a daily literacy hour, during which traditional methods, such as phonics and whole-class teaching, were used to instil the basics of reading. This is likely to be recom-

mended from next September, Ms Morris told a conference in London.

The international mathematics and science tests were taken two years ago by 6,142 pupils in 134 English schools. More than 500,000 pupils were involved in the overall survey of nine-year-olds and 13-year-olds, conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research.

Overall in mathematics, Scotland was sixteenth and England seventeenth out of the 26 countries. Singapore topped the table, followed by Korea, Japan and Hong Kong. In science, England was eighth and Scotland thirteenth. No other West European countries did better than England, although Austria, Norway and The Netherlands registered similar scores.

Experts said the better performance of English pupils in science was partly because the subject was introduced later into the curriculum of many other countries. Sig Prais, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, said: "In some continental countries, there is no serious science before the age of 14."

The National Foundation for Educational Research said that another possible reason for England's good showing in science was an extra half-hour per week on the subject since the introduction of the national curriculum.

Possible reasons for England's decline in mathematics included class size, classroom organisation and the amount of homework set. Teachers in England spent much less time addressing the whole class than their counterparts and set half the amount of homework recorded in Singapore. More than half of English nine-year-olds used calculators at least once a week, compared with 1 per cent in Singapore and Japan.

Ralph Tabberer, of the foundation, said that in the Pacific Rim countries there was also little difference between expectations of the most and least able pupils and stronger family and peer-group pressure to succeed.



Healthy options are shunned by many children. On average, pupils eat chips three times a week in school canteens

Blunkett says the chips are down for junk food in school dinners

By JOHN O'LEARY

DAVID BLUNKETT launched a government assault on junk food in the school canteen yesterday, announcing plans to set compulsory nutritional standards for the first time in 18 years.

The Education and Employment Secretary complained that pupils were, on average, eating chips three times a week. A healthy alternative was essential, he said, especially when school dinners were the only full meal of the day for a large number of pupils.

Mr Blunkett was cheered by trade union delegates as he promised to tighten voluntary guidelines issued only four months ago. There will be consultation on the detail of the new standards before it is decided how and when they should be implemented.

The quality and take-up of school meals had dropped significantly since nutritional standards were abandoned, Mr Blunkett said. Fewer than half of all

pupils had school meals last year, compared with almost two thirds in 1979, and about 30 per cent did not go home to a cooked meal. He said school meals also brought social benefits for pupils.

In a speech to the annual conference of Unison, the public-sector union, Mr Blunkett said: "If you are hungry and you have a poor diet it is difficult to concentrate and to learn effectively. For some, a school dinner is the only real meal a child gets in the day. It needs to be a decent meal, not junk." Healthy choices needed to be made attractive because, despite the efforts of schools, children continued to choose unhealthy food such as chips.

When the Tory Government issued detailed guidelines in February, ministers said the system should be voluntary because "we don't believe someone in London should be telling pupils in Lancaster what to eat". Mr Blunkett, however, agreed with Unison and other campaigners that only compulsion

would produce the desired improvements. The guidelines, likely to form the core of the new standards, set out realistic compromises for schools trying to cut intake of fat, sugar and salt. They were advised to use straight-cut chips rather than crinkle-cut and to put more pasta and less meat in spaghetti bolognese. Mr Blunkett chose a baked potato with beans and orange juice when he joined pupils for lunch at a comprehensive near the Brighton conference.

Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "Our research into the attitudes of working-class children shows that they actively choose not to pick the healthy options and mums have given up trying to force-feed them vegetables and a balanced diet at home."

"The cancers that can kill us are the ones in which nutrition plays the biggest part. There needs to be a shift back to healthy eating habits and school dinners is a good place to start."

Inquiry is launched into sale of Jewish school

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Charity Commission has begun an investigation into the sudden closure and sale of the country's only Jewish boarding school.

The inquiry follows complaints from parents of pupils at Carmel College, near Wallingford in Oxfordshire, where boarding places cost up to £13,000 a year. Parents knew nothing about the sale of school and its 300-acre grounds until April, when they were told it would close at the end of the summer term because of falling numbers. The commission could intervene to halt the sale.

Valerie Harris, a parent and Oxford city councillor who has campaigned to save Carmel College, said: "The fact that it has gone to an investigation means there is a cause for concern. We are not just seen to be neurotic parents."

Another parent, Beverley Bond, said: "The school is due to close at the end of July. We want this inquiry to be as quick as possible, then we can get in touch with everybody and get them to come back to Carmel. The kids are distressed because it's the last few days and they're not going to see each other any more."

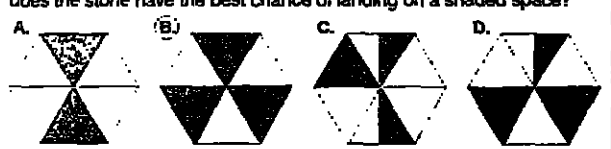
More than 70 parents of the remaining 200 pupils signed a letter to the Charity Commission raising concerns about the way the land was sold to developers. It claimed that governors had not acted in an "open and proper manner".

The chairman of the governors, Cyril Stein, was unavailable for comment. Carmel College was founded in 1948 and developed a reputation that spread among Jewish communities throughout the world. Old boys include the film director Roland Joffe, who won an Oscar for *The Killing Fields*.

In 1990 it became the first independent school in the country to have boarding fees of more than £10,000 and it remained among the most expensive, although 40 per cent of pupils are subsidised by the Assisted Places Scheme. The Government's phasing out of the scheme is thought to be one reason for the closure.

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	Percentage correct in international third grade (Year 4 in England)	Percentage correct in international fourth grade (Year 5 in England)
England	73.1	78.3
International average	68.6	77.8
Middle-ranked country	70.3	79.1
Highest-scoring country	88.6	89.0

Option (A) was the most popular wrong answer, chosen by 12.4 per cent of Year 4 and 11.3 per cent of Year 5 pupils in England.

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Inquiry is launched into sale of Jewish school

Yachtsmen report pirate whalers in mid-Atlantic

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A PIRATE whaling fleet may be operating in the mid-Atlantic, conservationists claimed yesterday after a series of sightings of dead and injured whales floating or tied to buoys west of the Azores.

Yachts have been docking in the Azores with reports of fishing vessels operating without lights, and other illegal maritime activities. Wildlife experts believe that at least one whaling factory ship, backed by one or more "catcher" boats, is hunting in the area in contravention of international rules.

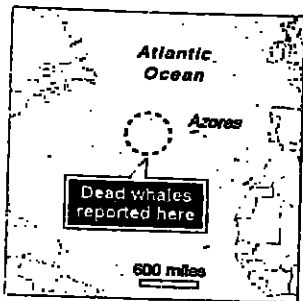
Some boats have collided with floating whales. In at least one case the animal was tied to a buoy fitted with radar reflectors.

Dr Mark Simmonds, of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society in Bath, which has been collating the reports, said yesterday: "It is likely that the catcher boats first kill or damage the whales with harpoons before tying them to the buoys. The factory ship then comes over the horizon and detects the buoys with its radar. It can then process the whale meat at its leisure." The species being killed are unknown, but evidence suggests that at least some are endangered sperm whales.

Jeff King, a Briton on the yacht *Tuesday Girl*, now docked in the Azores, said: "There is definitely whaling going on." He had seen until fishing boats and chatter over yacht radios was about seeing dead whales.

Brad DeLange, captain of the yacht *Globana*, said: "I never seen anything like this before. They are harpooning them and leaving them to die. The cruelty is unbelievable."

The claims come as nations meet in Harare, Zimbabwe, for a conference of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.



The trade in whale meat and whale parts is banned under the convention, but Japan is pressing for a partial lifting of the ban. Japan and Norway have consistently urged the International Whaling Commission, which has imposed a moratorium on hunting, to allow a limited commercial catch, particularly of minke whales. Japan continues to whale for "scientific purposes" and Norway has an exemption allowing commercial whaling of minke.

Greg Donovan of the commission said yesterday that, if the pirate operation involved ships flagged to a member of the organisation, action could be taken. Members could impound suspected whaling boats if they tried to dock at their ports. Countries could also take independent action, including sanctions.

The reports of dead and tethered whales have been coming in since May 12. A total of 12 dead whales has been reported by yachtsmen, with confirmed co-ordinates. Nine reports of large buoys up to two metres across have been collected. Some had radar reflectors and others had lights attached. One yacht investigated a cluster of up to ten large buoys tied together without any markings.

There have also been four reports of unusual sightings of fishing vessels. One described seeing a factory ship with an

open transom, or slipway, at the back, of the kind typically used by commercial whalers.

Mr DeLange said he had seen a large group of whales near the surface on May 31. "In the middle of the pod there was a yellow buoy. When we approached the whales, they all submerged except the one near the buoy. It appeared to be attached to it. They were large whales, like sperm whales."

One of the last great pirate whaling operations was a Norwegian ship called the *Sierra*, which was eventually impounded in South Africa and sunk by saboteurs in 1980. It was registered in Liechtenstein, flagged in Somalia, had an international crew, a Norwegian skipper and Japanese meat experts. It labelled its meat "Product of Spain", and sold its illicit catch through the Ivory Coast to the Far East.



Rare rhinos, page 12

Reports suggest that the endangered sperm whale is among those being killed. Whaling nations want a partial lifting of the hunting ban

Overfishing causes penguins to starve

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

OVERFISHING is forcing South American penguins to search for food so far from home that their chicks are starving to death before they return.

Zoologists from the University of Washington in Seattle, who track the Magellanic penguin of Punta Tombo, on the central coast of Argentina, have found that the birds sometimes travel for more than 300 miles on their foraging trips. These can last for more than three weeks, long

enough for the penguin chicks left behind on shore to die.

The authors of the study, P. Dee Boersma and David L. Stokes, blame unregulated fishing for the penguins' hardship. Their account, to be published shortly in the journal *Marine Ornithology*, is especially critical of Russian trawlers which operate in large fleets and use immense drift nets.

Dr Boersma says the penguin population has fallen 20 per cent in ten years.



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Doctor defends decision to let premature baby die

By Shirley English

THE doctor who pronounced a premature baby "not viable", and left her to die in her mother's arms, said yesterday it would have been "futile, heroic and foolish" to attempt to save her life.

Faisal al-Zidgali, a paediatrician at Ayrshire Central Hospital, told a fatal accident inquiry into Rebecca Cassidy's death last September that she had no chance of surviving and that it would have been cruel to intervene, despite her mother's pleas.

Rebecca was born weighing 1lb 4oz after a 25-week pregnancy. Within a minute of her birth she was turning blue, gasping for breath and her heart rate was between 10 and 12 beats per minute, compared to the norm of between 120 and 160, Dr Zidgali said.

Her skin was transparent and her limbs were grey and cold. She had internal bruising across her head and abdomen and her eyes were fused, he added.

Attempting to resuscitate her would have caused her pain and might have exploded her undeveloped lungs. Such

treatment would have prolonged her life for "only a couple of hours".

Dr Zidgali was giving evidence on the second day of the inquiry at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court. Kirsty Cassidy, 22, of Irvine, Ayrshire, hopes to establish that parents should have the right to demand treatment no matter how slim a child's chance of survival.

The doctor said that, on hearing of Rebecca's birth, he ran to the labour ward with every intention of resuscitating her. All the necessary equipment was ready. He had explained earlier to Mrs Cassidy that the options for treatment would depend on her condition and she had nodded in agreement, he said.

When he saw Rebecca, he realised that he could do nothing for her.

"There was no treatment to offer and no treatment to withhold. It would have been futile, heroic and foolish trying to do something for a baby that, in any clinical judgment, was not viable. You should not do anything to harm that baby. All I had in mind was

what was best for Rebecca," he said.

Only 4 per cent of 26-week gestation babies survived up to a year, he said. Rebecca was in one of the poorest conditions he had seen.

Dr Zidgali claimed that a doctor's decision had to take precedence over the parents' as it "could work both ways". If parents told him not to treat a baby because it was disabled, for example, he would treat that baby if it was in a good condition.

If parents wanted intensive care at any cost, they had to make it clear before the birth, because there was no time afterwards, he said. Mrs Cassidy had not done this.

If she had demanded such treatment beforehand, he would have sought a second opinion and asked for a consultant to be present at the birth. Asked under cross-examination whether he would have treated Rebecca if he had been aware that the Cassidy's wanted everything to be done, he said that he would not.

"That would have been something against my belief and

against my medical training to try to save an infant who was not viable."

Dr Zidgali said that, in his four meetings with Mrs Cassidy, she had never once complained about his management of Rebecca's birth. Apart from the actual birth, all the meetings had been pleasant and she had thanked him for "doing what was best".

He said that, like any parent, Mrs Cassidy had been distressed when he told her that Rebecca was beyond help but, by the time he left, she had calmed down. An hour later he visited her again to offer his condolences.

"She was lying on the bed and she had Rebecca wrapped in a towel. She was stroking the baby's head. She said to me that she was glad I did not stick tubes and things into her [Rebecca]. She said it was the best thing to do for her."

Asked by John Macdonald, Mrs Cassidy's solicitor, whether he agreed that there had been a complete communications breakdown, he answered: "Absolutely not." The hearing continues.



Nick Sanders back in London yesterday. His journey took 31 days and 21 hours

Biker sets record for trip round the world

By Mark Henderson

A BRITISH motorcyclist who set a new record for a round-the-world road journey arrived home in London yesterday. Nick Sanders, 39, from Manchester, who has held records for cycling around the world and around Britain, arrived in Calais at 9.40pm on Monday after 31 days, 21 hours on the road. The previous record was 33 days by car.

He returned to London to a champagne reception in Battersea Park organised by his sponsors, Mobil, where he was reunited with his girlfriend, Henrietta Tremlett, who is five months pregnant. Mr Sanders, who rode a Triumph Daytona, has to wait two weeks before his ride is ratified by the Guinness Book of Records. He covered an average 700 miles a day, and rode for at least 18 hours at a time. "I slept where I stopped, four hours a night, sometimes on my bike," he said.

Aitken accused of covering his tracks over secret arms deal

By Michael Horsnell

JONATHAN AITKEN clashed yesterday with George Carman, QC, the leading libel lawyer, after being accused of concocting a catalogue of lies about an alleged secret arms deal.

Mr Carman said that Mr Aitken's account of a family weekend at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993, and who paid for it, was an attempt to "cover his tracks" over a clandestine meeting with prominent Arab businessmen.

Mr Carman listed 13 points which, he claimed, destroyed the former Tory minister's account of who paid for the visit and its purpose.

He told Mr Aitken, who was Defence Procurement Minister at the time: "Your story is a catalogue of improbability heaped upon improbability. I suggest it is a web of lies. The account was 'so improbable as to be preposterous', he added.

Mr Aitken, who is suing The Guardian and Granada TV over allegations about his dealings with Saudi Arabian businessmen, angrily hit back. He told Mr Carman, counsel for the newspaper and television company: "I suggest the tangled web is in your advocacy and not in the facts of my case."

He dismissed the attack as rubbish and added: "I completely reject these flamboyant allegations." After Mr Carman had listed the 13 points, Mr Aitken said that he had already in evidence answered "each and every one of them to the best of my ability".

Mr Aitken, 54, who lost his Thanet South seat at the general election, claims that the weekend in Paris was a family event en route to Switzerland to introduce his teenage daughter, Victoria, to her new school. He has told Mr Justice Popplewell that the ultimate payment of part of his hotel bill by Prince Mohammed, son of the King of Saudi Arabia, was an unfortunate muddle.

Earlier on the fifth day of his

libel action, Mr Aitken admitted that he had received a "magnificent" watch from a brother-in-law of the Saudi King at the conclusion of a property transaction.

Mr Aitken said that he had not declared the gift of the "magnificent" watch in the Register of Members' Interests in the House of Commons but said that it did not amount to personal enrichment.

Mr Aitken said he had given the woman's watch to his wife, Lolicia, or to a secretary and that it was commonplace for watches to be given in the Arab business world. He said it was a "matter of judgment" whether the gift should have been declared.

Mr Carman disclosed to the judge that The Guardian had received a fax on Monday night from an anonymous sender enclosing a copy of a letter on the headed notepaper of Al Bilad UK, a company of which Mr Aitken was a director, dated July 12, 1988.

The letter from Mr Aitken to the prominent Saudi businessman Dr Abdul Masri thanked him for his hospitality and asked him to "please pass on my warm thanks to Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibrahim for his most generous gift of that magnificent watch."

The hearing continues today.



Aitken: received gift of "magnificent" watch

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

Biker sets record for trip round the world

Women told 'cures' have a fat chance of banishing cellulite

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Advertising Standards Authority warned women yesterday to be vigilant this summer about creams which are said to banish cellulite.

The organisation said that it would be watching for advertisements that made unsubstantiated claims about so-called miracle potions to remove the "orange peel" skin which troubled many women. In a report issued yesterday it said that it had yet to see scientific evidence to justify claims that creams alone could reduce, shape or remove dimply cellulite — a build-up of subcutaneous fat which mainly affects the thighs and upper arms.



Pamela Anderson: said to have cellulite

The wish of women to get rid of their cellulite has produced an industry worth £12 million a year in Britain alone. Creams vary in price but the more reputable companies tend to charge between £20 and £30. Those who have cellulite are reported to include such celebrities as the actresses Sharon Stone and Pamela Anderson.

The report by the Advertising Standards Authority says: "Sadly, the only proven way to combat cellulite is through diet and exercise. There are no short cuts to make your body more closely resemble a peach than an orange."

"The ASA is especially watchful for 'anti-cellulite'

creams at this time of year and publishers should be wary of accepting advertisements which state or imply that a product can reduce or remove this sunbather's nightmare."

If women "look for solutions in a bottle they might find themselves targeted by companies advertising creams that they claim will 'smooth' and 'contour' orange-peel thighs", it added.

Dr Elisabeth Dancy, who treats cellulite at her Wimpole Street, London, practice and wrote the book *The Cellulite Solution*, said that it was true that some firms might make false claims. Although certain French products had been

shown to help to reduce cellulite, "you cannot just use cream alone and expect your cellulite to disappear. It must be combined with the right diet and exercise."

The authority says that while massage might produce beneficial effects for skin texture, if an advertiser wanted to say that punnelling with their product would have a particular effect on cellulite, they would have to demonstrate that it was the product, not the massage, that produced the result.

"Advertisers need to hold evidence for their claims," said a spokesman. "We do not want to see adverts which mislead the public. We will take action where necessary."

The authority said it was also upholding complaints against advertisements for diet products, including Chitosan Fat Sponge capsules, which claimed to help weight loss by preventing fats being absorbed. Although Chitosan had been shown to aid weight loss in rats, there was no evidence to date that it did anything similar in humans.

Advertisements for Dr James Supplement pills, which made unsubstantiated claims that users would "lose weight constantly, and at a steady pace, without even thinking about it", were also criticised.



It is less dangerous to be a pear-shaped woman than an apple-shaped man

The solution is simple: eat less, exercise more



Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE warning from the Advertising Standards Authority will delight doctors, who have been preaching the same message for years. Women have been taught by advertisers to attribute the dimpling of the skin caused by an excessive deposits of subcutaneous fat, particularly on the thighs and upper arms, to this strange condition "cellulite" — which does not appear in any medical textbook.

The term is dangerously confusing because there is an accepted medical term cellulitis, which can be serious, in which the skin and the subcutaneous layers have suffered bacterial infection. The patient with cellulitis is ill and the skin is red and shiny. Cellulite carries with it only the same dangers inherent in being obese: high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and arthritis.

Excessive subcutaneous fat is usually a female problem, as men and women tend to become obese in different ways. The normal, rounded, female outline is the result of women having a thicker layer of subcutaneous fat than men, which has the advantage of enabling them to withstand

the cold better than men. Women are also more likely to have excessive deposits of fat around their limbs. Any excess weight carried centrally in women more often makes them pear-shaped, rather than apple-shaped.

This difference can be clinically important. Having heavy limbs, even with a pear-shaped body, is not as dangerous as being apple-shaped, in which additional weight is carried around the belly, while the legs and arms are skinny. There is evidence that people with an excessive abdominal girth are more likely to have high levels of low-density lipoprotein, a pernicious form of fat carried in the blood. It may be this difference which makes the apple-shaped more liable to suffer cardiovascular disease.

"Cellulite" is no more or less than a misleading term for excessive subcutaneous fat: the only way to lose it during a woman's youthful years is to eat less and to take more exercise. A consolation for women troubled by it is that it is possibly a less dangerous way of carrying excessive weight than having it around the abdomen.

'Tattoo' to protect pop on Internet

By NICK NUTTALL

A SECRET signal is being inserted into pop music recordings in a bid to prevent them being pirated to avoid the payment of royalties to companies.

The "tattoo" system is being developed by the industry in advance of high-tech distribution methods, by which recordings will be sent to customers over the Internet. Record companies fear that the music of chart-topping groups could be easily hijacked and used in pirate recordings unless new forms of security are used.

The tattoo, also known as embedded signalling technology, will send out a signal when the music is played. The inaudible signal will identify the copyright owner and indicate if the recording has been acquired legally or illegally. Record companies are also planning to distribute music on cable TV networks.

Cadbury's still sweet on Street

By CAROL MIDDLEY

CADBURY'S is to pour another £10 million into sponsorship of *Coronation Street*. The animated chocolate characters at the start and end of the show will return for a third year, taking Cadbury's total investment to £30 million.

Cadbury's ruled out advertising in the soap opera itself: "We want our advertising and the editorial content to be absolutely separate."

New chocolate characters have been produced for Cadbury's by Aardman Animations, which created Wallace and Gromit. Their debut will be next Thursday.

The deal with Granada, the television company, was announced yesterday at an ITV sponsorship conference. Richard Frost, Cadbury's negotiator for the deal, said research had shown a "94 per cent awareness level of the Cadbury association".

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Skeleton may prove Indians were not the first Americans

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE United States federal authorities have been accused of suppressing "politically inconvenient" scientific evidence that could prove that the first people to inhabit America were "Caucasoids" from Europe and not the American Indians.

The charge, made this week in *The New Yorker* magazine by Douglas Preston, a distinguished American science writer, centres on a 9,300-year-old skeleton called "Kennewick Man", now locked up in an army vault in Washington.

Archaeologists argue that the skeleton could help to rewrite the history of the peopling of America, showing that the descendants of the American Indians might have driven a people off their land in much the same way as they themselves were evicted, years later, by the white man.

Militant American Indian groups have dismissed these arguments as "another attempt to rob Native Americans of their history".

So sensitive is the issue, Mr Preston argues, that the Government is intent on burying the skeleton forever — literally. A court case which began last week, pitting archaeologists against the Government, is but a last-ditch attempt by the former to prevent the skeleton being handed over to Indian groups for a ritual entombment.

Mr Preston has described a complex saga. In June last

year, on the banks of the Columbia River in Kennewick, in Washington state, two residents stumbled upon a skeleton. James Chatters, a local forensic expert who conducted a preliminary examination, concluded that they were the 9,300-year-old bones of a Caucasoid — a term applied to a human type which ranges from Europe to parts of South Asia.

Kennewick Man, Mr Chatters found, was probably aged between 40 and 55 when he

‘We know that our people have been part of this land since the beginning of time’

died, and stood 5ft 9in tall, much taller than the prehistoric Native Americans of the Northwest. But what was a Caucasoid man doing in the New World 9,300 years ago?

According to American textbooks, he should not have been there: received wisdom states that the Indians were the first Americans, having crossed over about 9,000 years ago from Siberia. Mr Chatters alerted archaeologists and anthropologists, who confirmed that his find was astonishing.

Militant American Indians from the Umatilla tribe, meanwhile, had decided arbitrarily that the skeleton was that of a Native American and laid claim to it. Their aim was to give it a prompt ritual burial. Bowing to pressure from the group, the Army Corps of Engineers, which controls the stretch of the river where Kennewick Man was found, confiscated the skeleton, citing powers under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The controversial statute requires the Government to hand over all American Indian remains found on federal land to groups which lay ancestral claim to them.

The scientists argued in vain that the Act did not apply, as the skeleton was clearly not that of an American Indian. Their pleas for Kennewick Man to be returned were ignored, and the army proceeded to negotiate a handover to the Umatillas. An Umatilla leader rejected the scientific evidence, saying: "From our oral histories, we know that our people have been part of this land since the beginning of time. We do not believe that our people migrated here from another continent, as the scientists do." The scientists, however, were able to secure a court order to block the handover and the loss to science of Kennewick Man. The case, in which title to the skeleton will be decided, is before the US District Court in Oregon.



Ben Chaplin, left, and Rufus Sewell. Two of those Hollywood believes are redefining the look of British acting



Brats move aside for moody Brit Pack

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

Ewan McGregor: a hit with his role in *Trainspotting*

CON MEN, hustlers, shell-shock victims and incurable romantics. Such are the roles Hollywood has given this year to an invasion of new foreign faces with one thing in common besides their gender and their penetrating stares. They are all British.

On the heels of Ewan McGregor, who shocked and delighted American audiences as the leading heroin junkie in *Trainspotting*, half-dozen wan young Brits are poised to make their big-budget Hollywood debuts in roles likely to make them the envy of the local Brat Pack.

Jude Law, 24, last seen naked in *Indiscretions* on Broadway, landed the role of a hustler in Clint Eastwood's next film, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Ben Chaplin, 27, appears with Jennifer Jason Leigh as an urbane swindler in a new version of Henry James's *Washington Square*. Linus Roache, 32, plays a member of America's least respected profession — a journalist — opposite Helena Bonham Carter in another Henry James adaptation, *The Wings of the Dove*.

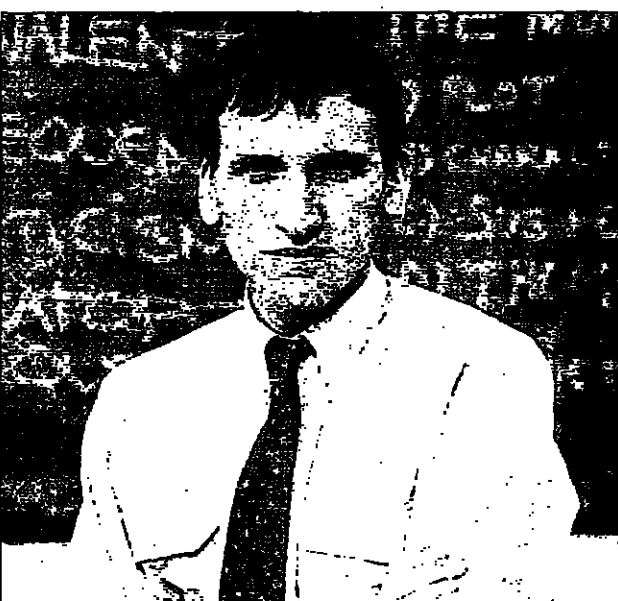
Christopher Eccleston, the oldest of the pack at 33, appeared in art-house cinemas

as a reluctant Scottish murderer in *Shallow Grave*, but is expected to win a wider audience opposite the rising American stars Julianne Margulies and Renee Zellweger in *A Price Below Rubies*.

Jonny Lee Miller, 24, grapples with shell-shock in the Second World War drama *Regeneration*, and Rufus Sewell, a former boyfriend of Kate Winslet's, is scheduled to appear in two autumn releases including *Dark City*, with William Hurt.

The import surplus has been noted in sweeping language: "The bevy of English and Scottish lads currently invading our shores is redefining the look of British acting the way Michael Caine, Sean Connery and Albert Finney did 30 years ago," this week's *Entertainment Weekly* declared. Hollywood, it appears, has tired of foppish young men in the style of Hugh Grant and is looking to the mother country for new icons.

No one has captured Britain's loufist new image in Hollywood more completely than McGregor, who appears in three new films in quick succession later this year. He had the temerity to drink during a recent American interview, but redeemed himself on the way to "becoming utterly sloshed" by announcing: "I love New York."



Christopher Eccleston, left, oldest of the pack, and Linus Roache who plays opposite Helena Bonham Carter



'Morning after' drug cocktail could keep Aids risk at bay

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A "MORNING AFTER" cocktail of powerful drugs may help people who have had a risky sexual encounter to avoid getting Aids, leading American doctors believe.

The same new drugs which are showing success in treating HIV and full-blown Aids may be able to prevent infection, doctors hope. Hospitals and clinics in cities with large numbers of HIV carriers are beginning to offer the drugs as a preventative measure for certain patients. Doctors

emphasise that there is no evidence yet that immediate action can completely prevent the virus taking hold.

But they point out that giving AZT, one of the first anti-Aids drugs, to hospital staff after, say, a scalpel wound, appears to reduce the risk of infection by 80 per cent.

AZT taken during the last six months of pregnancy also appears to reduce the chance that an HIV-positive mother will pass on the virus to her baby from one in four to less than one in ten.

□ New York: The United Nations is testing a traditional

Oriental medicine in Vietnam that promises to provide a three-day cure for heroin addiction (James Bone writes). A cocktail of 13 herbal medicines that looks like a brown syrup has been administered to some 4,000 Vietnamese opium and heroin addicts with a recidivism rate of less than 30 per cent.

Known as Heantos, it was developed by Vietnam's leading specialist in herbal medicine, Dr Trang Khuong Dan, who deliberately became a heroin addict after his brother died from an overdose of the drug.

New from America



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Boeing helps golfer to indulge flight of fancy

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

GREG NORMAN, the Australian golfer ranked Number 1 in the world, has bought a Boeing 737 Business Jet for \$30.5 million (£19 million).

Only 17 models of the plane have been sold by the Seattle-based firm, and never before to a private individual. Boeing said the golfer will act as a roving ambassador for the corporation, in return for which his private jet will receive full maintenance cover and servicing.

Speaking at a news conference, Mr Norman said: "When I was a young assistant pro at the Virginia Golf Course in Brisbane, I'd save every dollar I could to pay for air fares. I never dreamt that I'd have my own jet one day. But I travel 275,000 air-miles a

year now, and when you travel that much, it makes sense to spend the extra money to make things comfortable."

Mr Norman has acquired a bare aircraft, which he will refit himself at a cost of \$6 million. There will be a suite for himself and his wife, Laura, a former air hostess whom he met while flying steerage class as a young professional. There will also be rooms for his children, Morgan Leigh and Greg Jr, and a guest room. The jet will boast an office and state-of-the-art satellite communications.

Bill Cogswell, a Boeing spokesman, said: "He could probably install a putting green, but I don't think that would be too practical."

White rhino survives Zaire conflict

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE northern white rhino, the most endangered branch of the rhinoceros family, has survived the fighting that raged round their home in northeast Zaire. Despite fears, only one out of 31 may have fallen victim to the conflict.

The reported death had not been confirmed. Holly Dublin, of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said in Harare yesterday. But Zairean soldiers, in their flight from the forces of Laurent Kabila, now President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, had stripped equipment and wrecked buildings at the Garamba national park, near the border with Sudan. "They looted radios, trucks, land cruisers, everything," she said. "What they couldn't walk away with, they took away on C130s [transport planes]."

Two months ago anxieties developed in the 31,000 sq-mile park that the WWF's project to save the northern white rhino from extinction would be consumed in the war. Two rhinos died last year, the first in 12 years.

But Mr Kabila's forces had made clear in April "that it was a policy that this [looting] would not happen". Rebel officers had taken the initiative to contact the WWF by radio in Goma, 1,250 miles away, after driving out the

army of former President Mobutu, and officials of the agency had been allowed to return to Garamba to check the state of the park.

Optimism about rhinos generally was one of the rare signs of cheer at the meeting in Harare of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Esmond Bradley-Martin, the veteran International Union for the Conservation of Nature researcher into the five species of rhino, said there was evidence of a big fall in demand in the Middle East and the Far East for rhino horn.

□ Nairobi: Four mountain gorillas were killed in crossfire in Congo last month, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme said yesterday. There are only about 550 in the world. (Reuters)



Rare white rhinoceroses in an Ivory Coast zoo

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Netanyahu says Israel will never be a 'ghetto'

BINYAMIN Netanyahu yesterday warned Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, that Israel would never reduce itself to "a ghetto state on the shores of the Mediterranean" by withdrawing to its 1967 borders, and vowed to continue construction of the disputed Har Homa settlement.

In a hard-hitting interview to mark his first year in office, the Israeli Prime Minister called on Mr Arafat to come to terms with ideological reality and abandon ambitions for shared sovereignty in Jerusalem or a Palestinian state. He also said that Israel would never cede control of the occupied Jordan Valley.

"Mr Arafat must tell his people openly and squarely that peace will not be achieved on the 1967 lines," Mr Netanyahu said. "Israel will not reduce itself to a fragile ghetto state on the Mediterranean shores."

"Equally, [Mr Arafat] must stop promising the division of Jerusalem because no one in Israel, or throughout the Jewish people, will permit the rebuilding of a Berlin Wall

In an interview marking his first year in office, Israel's Prime Minister ruled out any prospect of a return to 1967 borders, writes Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

inside Israel's capital. These are the important adjustments to reality that have yet to take place on the Palestinian side. When they do take place, I believe peace will be in reach."

Mr Netanyahu, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister and, at 47, its youngest, appeared unruffled by international criticism of his policy on settlements, in particular Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem.

The morning papers had carried pictures of him pouring concrete during a cornerstone-laying ceremony for an architecture school in the West Bank settlement of Ariel. His gesture further infuriated Palestinians, who are resentful of the support he has so far given to the 144,000 settlers.

"The easiest thing is to simply give away, to give up

things. You will be pined on the back in the entire world," he said in a reference to the previous Labour Administration. "I think anyone who thought the stopping of the mad dash to the 1967 boundaries would pass without some kind of friction was naive."

Mr Netanyahu added: "We were, in fact, racing towards those indefensible lines when we took office, and we told the Palestinians; we are prepared to have peace, but peace requires mutual compromise. It requires adjustment of ideology to facts on the ground."

He claimed that by handing back 80 per cent of Hebron and releasing "women terrorist prisoners" his Government had kept its side of the Oslo bargain. He admitted that he had made mistakes, but underlined forcibly that he did not see these as either last September's opening of an archaeological tunnel in east Jerusalem or Har Homa.

Mr Netanyahu accused outsiders of treating Israel with double standards in the flagging peace negotiations. "Supposing I told you that if the Palestinians do not accept our view, then we will send in the tanks. You can say, 'that is not acceptable, you can't do that, you are negotiating peace'. But that is in fact what we are being told: that if the Palestinians' proposals are not met, they can take up bombs and rifles. That is a frame of mind

which has to be rejected." The Prime Minister said that against "quite a few pieces of advice" — including that of two former war heroes in his Cabinet, Ariel Sharon and Avigdor Kahalani — he had now accepted Egypt's offer of mediation in the effort to kick-start the stalled peace talks.

Asked about repeated stories in the Hebrew press that he had secretly agreed to pause or slow building at Har Homa, the declared condition of Mr Arafat for returning to the table, Mr Netanyahu was emphatic: he would not agree to such a requirement, either at Har Homa or elsewhere.

"This whole idea that the construction of houses, homes and schools is a barrier to peace is absurd," he said. "This whole notion that peace means the withering away of communities or their uprooting is an abominable form of human engineering that has already proved calamitous in this century."

Mr Netanyahu's greatest anger was reserved for the new Palestinian Authority order to kill Arabs selling land to Jews. Three Palestinians have been shot dead in the West Bank since last month.

Diminishing the new policy as "Nuremberg Laws", Mr Netanyahu said that it cast a grave shadow over the commitment of the Palestinians to peace and human rights. He said that new measures taken this week by Israel — the issuing of an arrest warrant for a Palestinian security official and the withdrawal of VIP travel privileges from another suspected of organising killings — were "just the beginning".

Thatcherism inspires an economic revolution

THE right-wing Prime Minister claimed to be fulfilling his election pledge of an economic revolution and to be "changing the face of Israel" with a privatisation programme that has only recently taken off (Christopher Walker writes).

"In the past four months, we have privatised [£613 million] worth of government assets, ten times more than the previous Government privatised in its last year in office," Mr Netanyahu told me. Within six months he thought another similar amount would have been privatised.

With Baroness Thatcher an admitted economic inspiration, Mr Netanyahu added: "We are changing the face of Israel. Israel used to be a socialist, controlled economy. We are privatising and deregulating with a vengeance. We are about to add a third cellular phone operator — there are probably more cellular phones in Israel than anywhere in the world, or close to it."

While Mr Netanyahu has been coming in for widespread international criticism over his headline peace policy, the Tel Aviv stock market has

been booming to record levels. Undeterred by clouds of a possible new Middle East war, foreign investors, attracted by the share offerings, have been flocking to the market. They now account for about 12 per cent of activity, up from nil three or four years ago.

"I think we have made big strides into my vision of Israel as a liberalised, free economy which is rapidly becoming one of the great centres of information and high-technology economy anywhere in the world," Mr Netanyahu said. Recent figures show that this race towards the

free market has been matched by a drop in inflation from 15 per cent at the start of last year to between 7 and 10 per cent.

The Likud-led Government, which has seen citizens' average per capita incomes rise to their present level of about £10,500 a year, has based its economic drive on two basic assets: the technological skills of the nearly one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have arrived since 1989, and Israel's military industries, now turning their expertise to new fields.



Benjamin Netanyahu during the interview. "Peace will not be achieved on the 1967 lines"

'Stolen' paintings found in store

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

TWO paintings, one by Picasso and one by Monet, have been found in a Cleveland rented store five years after their disappearance from the home of a Californian eye surgeon.

Monet's *Customs Officer's Cabin at Pourville* (1882) and Picasso's *Nude before a Mirror* (1932), were insured for \$12.5 million (£7.7 million) months before Dr Steven Cooperman reported them stolen from his home in Brentwood, Los Angeles.

No alarm sounded on the night of the alleged break-in and the police found no sign of forced entry, prompting Dr Cooperman's insurers to sue him rather than honour the policies. The case was settled out of court.

FBI agents focused their investigation on Cleveland last year after a woman there told police officers responding to a domestic violence call that James Little, her boyfriend, had stolen paintings. Mr Little, who now lives in Cleveland, did legal work for Dr Cooperman while living in the Los Angeles area in the early 1990s. Neither man has been approached by authorities investigating the case, but a lawyer for the insurance companies poured scorn on claims of a genuine burglary.

There was "a house full of artwork", said Alan Jampol, who estimated that the paintings had been insured for three or four times their true value. A \$250,000 reward for the paintings' safe return had been offered by an art loss register maintained by the International Foundation for Art Research. The FBI said the paintings, wrapped in cardboard, were "in great condition".

Amsterdam: *Sunflowers* and *Lullaby*, two of his works which Vincent Van Gogh said repeatedly that he wanted to hang side by side, were reunited this week in the Van Gogh Museum here.

Woman is Algeria's voice of dissent

FROM PETER SHAW-SMITH IN ALGIERS

SHE is handsome, young, impulsive — and knows her own mind. And after Algerian officialdom, she is a welcome change.

Louisa Hanoune, leader of the Workers' Party, is Algeria's conscience, the heart on its sleeve. Most people here dismiss her views, which have been called "Trotskyist" by her detractors.

But, as the only woman leader of an Algerian political

party, she has an important role to play. She will probably never achieve power through the ballot box, but she is a guardian of morality and values.

As long as she speaks out, those in power will have a formidable critic.

In her office, she begins by dismissing the fairness of last week's elections. "The number of seats we won does not correspond to the reality. They

have decreed that we won four seats... we should have won 15," she says.

"It's clear that there was a nationwide problem. The National Commission for Surveillance of the General Elections also was an accomplice. It never replied to a single complaint. No one can find anyone at the commission to lodge a complaint with."

Some of the international observers also came under

attack from Ms Hanoune. The Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity said everything went fine. But one OAU observer fell asleep while at the polling station he was supposed to be monitoring in Tizi Ouzou, Ms Hanoune said.

"There is absolutely no democracy here. On the contrary. This regime organised these elections in order to incapacitate institutions, to stifle the expression of the sovereignty of the Algerian people. It wants to keep itself in power... and the methods it uses are fascist."

She described Algeria as a nation at war. "It is not simply a problem of violence," she said, adding that the conflict was taking place between several actors.

"They [the actors] are numerous. The state with, of course, its military branches and all those institutions which are armed. Certainly there are armed militias which were armed by the Government. The people have been taken hostage between these actors."

But what is at stake in this war is the Algerian economy. The economic situation here is disastrous. Three hundred corporations have shut down, hundreds of thousands of workers have no income, 350,000 people have not been paid their salary for two years and the national exchequer has not paid anything towards unemployment insurance.

Asked who is fighting the war against the regime, Ms Hanoune said: "We haven't seen any massacres against the regime. The victims of the massacres are the people — people who are isolated in the countryside, in towns... We are in a state of emergency. There's no independent justice."

"There are no commissions of inquiry. The press isn't free. No one can do anything in these conditions."

Government resigns: President Zeroual of Algeria yesterday accepted the resignation of Ahmed Ouyahia, the Prime Minister, and his Cabinet, who stepped down as expected after last week's elections.

Mr Ouyahia will remain as a caretaker until a new Government is formed. (AFP)

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Jospin persuades Renault to delay car plant closure

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Prime Minister, persuaded the car maker, Renault, yesterday to postpone its highly controversial plans to close the Vilvorde factory in Belgium.

Louis Schweitzer, Renault's chairman, announced last night that he had appointed an independent expert to study ways of keeping the plant open.

His decision is a result of M Jospin's election pledge to give Europe a "human face" alongside the austerity of economic and monetary union.

But amid scepticism in France over the Prime Minister's chances of altering European history, the 3,000 workers whose jobs are threatened at Vilvorde questioned whether they had been given a lifeline or a short stay of execution. Renault insiders expect the independent expert to conclude next month that Vilvorde must shut its doors if the

car manufacturer is to return to profit after losing money last year for the first time in a decade.

The factory became a symbol for all that France thought was wrong with the European Union when M Schweitzer announced its closure three months ago.

French union leaders won widespread sympathy when they called on the European Commission to promote policies that would create jobs and prevent redundancies across the EU.

The power of that message was illustrated yesterday as more than 60,000 people demonstrated in Paris in favour of "employment in Europe".

Amid uproar in Belgium, Jean-Luc Dehaene, the country's Prime Minister, urged the recently privatised car manufacturer to change its mind.

The row over Vilvorde per-

suaded M Jospin to adopt Eurosceptic tones during an election campaign that saw him promise to put work and growth at the heart of the European agenda. That pledge was a crucial factor in his electoral success.

But translating it into action is likely to prove difficult. French commentators yesterday insisted on France's isolation within the EU after its refusal to accept the stability pact imposing budgetary discipline on countries that adopt the euro. They said that M Jospin was unlikely to convince his partners to include a commitment to economic expansion and job creation in a new version of the pact.

With the conservative President Chirac urging his left-wing Government yesterday to sign the pact next week, the Prime Minister is under pressure to back down at home and abroad.

He faces similar pressures over the symbolic question of Vilvorde. With a 46 per cent stake in Renault, the French Government could have blocked the factory's closure by forging an alliance with staff who own shares.

But it chose not to, aware that Renault needs urgent surgery to become competitive. Although the Government will present the appointment of an independent expert as a victory for the new social Europe, it hopes to create M Jospin knows that he might have to how to economic reality and allow the plant to close.

However, he gave a clear sign of change in another area yesterday when he agreed to allow between 20,000 and 40,000 illegal immigrants the right to stay in France if they can show they are well integrated. His move will not have the sweeping effect of the late President Mitterrand's decision to regularise most illegal immigrants in 1981, but nevertheless it was welcomed by immigrant groups last night.

Photograph, page 24



A man caught stealing awaits punishment from Sierra Leone soldiers in Freetown yesterday. At least four soldiers have been summarily executed by an anti-looting squad in the capital after they tried to rape nuns and to loot their aid agency compound, security sources said

Fighting ends Paris dominance

Paris: Fighting continued in Brazzaville yesterday as President Chirac's attempt to secure a ceasefire in Congo Brazzaville merely underlined declining French influence (Adam Sage writes).

M Chirac announced on Monday that his personal crusade for peace had borne fruit, with pro-government forces and militiamen agreeing to lay down their arms. But yesterday the gunmen attacked each other yards from the main French base at Brazzaville airport, endangering British, French and other foreign citizens.

M Chirac's followers conceded that after the fall of francophone regimes in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the former Zaire, the turmoil in Congo signals an end to 30 years of French paternalism in Africa.

Nigerian forces face disaster

THE revolutionary forces of Major Johnny Paul Koromah, the coup leader, operate in the Sierra Leone capital much like a Los Angeles street gang, with beheading and dismemberment as specialties.

Despite that, the soldiers of the new Nigerian-led West African "peacekeeping" force seem likely to be the heralds of doom for the future of Ecomog, the West African peacekeepers, and Nigeria's influence in the region.

Having dealt a humiliating blow to Nigerian forces in Freetown during last week's fighting, the rebels' Armed Forces Revolutionary Council has now consolidated its grip around the capital and could be dislodged only by a concerted series of attacks from land, sea and air. Though Nigeria may be prepared to ignore international condemnation over the large number of civilian casualties that would be involved in such an operation, it seems unlikely its forces have the means to launch one.

"The Nigerians haven't got any more than 3,000 men, at the most, stuck in Freetown," said Major A. S. Koromah, himself a Sandhurst-trained officer, although no relation of the coup leader.

"They are split between two locations on low ground and control one airstrip now, which we could shell at will. Communications with their base in Liberia are haphazard and we do not believe they have more than two small frigates off the coast. They are welcome to attack us again if they wish," said the major.



Having humiliated Nigeria, the coup leader in Sierra Leone is here to stay, reports Anthony Loyd in Freetown

"We will bow our heads to every air sortie, and when the time comes for them to send their troops they will meet disaster."

Sierra Leone's former regular army has more than 3,000 men in the capital. They have been joined by at least 6,000 of their former foes, the Revolutionary United Front. The force is heavily armed, and though individual groups operate more according to gang loyalty than a military chain of command it appears intent on holding Sierra Leone.

"See them soldiers there," said Muhammed, an RUF soldier, pointing to a dejected group of Nigerians in their

isolated base at Hastings. "If they try something, we'll kill them all." Muhammed is 17 and has been a soldier in the Sierra Leone bush since he was 12. Sitting in the back of a pickup truck he cradled a Kalashnikov. As with all the RUF fighters, he seems tougher than his regular army counterparts. He and his comrades in the Jop killed more than a dozen Nigerians in the fighting. He said it was easy work. Another 379 Nigerian soldiers have been captured, including a brigadier.

The only feasible way out is by negotiation, and the damage to Nigerian credibility does not bode well for the July elections in Liberia, where Nigerian troops are the key to stability. Painful as it may be for the Nigerians to accept, Major Johnny Paul Koromah and his men are here to stay. At least until the next coup.

Leading article, page 19

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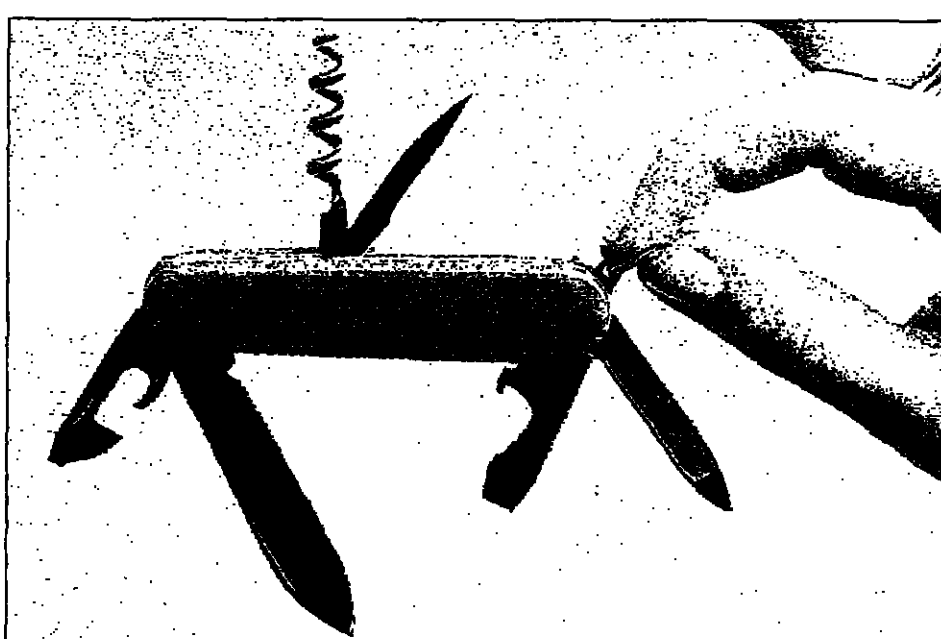
Trusty Swiss army knife turns 100

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

REVELATIONS about Nazi gold and wartime collaboration have rattled many of Switzerland's proudest claims: its neutrality, the independence and integrity of its bankers. Even Emmentaler cheese has taken a knocking with reports of corruption in the export trade.

But one achievement has remained as solid as the Matterhorn — the Swiss army knife, which tomorrow celebrates its 100th birthday. The knife has conquered the pockets of the world and, indeed, beyond. Astronauts in NASA spaceships use it, as do Nigerian paratroops, British explorers and Boy Scouts everywhere. Lovesick teenagers carve their initials in trees with it. Vienna's carriage drivers use the device to remove stones from the hooves of their horses, mountaineers have saved their lives by cutting off fingers with the metallic saw implement.

The knife was patented on June 12, 1897, by Karl Elsener, son of a Swiss hatmaker. The idea was to exploit the vanity of the officer class who wanted a smaller, lighter knife than that supplied to the rank and file. It was a rather basic model compared to today's variants consisting of blades,



About 34,000 Swiss army knives are made every day. It was first patented in 1897

tin opener, screwdriver and a corkscrew. The top-of-the-range model, the Swiss Champ, has 64 parts and 33 functions, including rolled-up plasters, matches and safety pins along with the more usual scissors, magnifying glass, toothpick, ruler, nail file and wood and metal saws.

There are more than 100 models: a fisherman's version with a device to scrape off scales and a managerial mod-

el with a laser pointer. Many knives now have a watch embedded next to the Swiss Cross emblem, thus twinning the country's two trademark products.

The success of the knife owes much to the apologetic temperament of the Swiss who, even when dressed in banker's pinstripes, seem to have inherited the mountain farmer's anxiety about imminent avalanches and storms.

The Swiss Army uses a different olive-green model, allowing the company — now run by the third generation of the Elsener family in the Schwyz canton — to export the more usual red-and-silver knife without falling foul of strict arms sales restrictions. Critics sneer that the knife is the Swiss Army's most powerful weapon now — that the pigeon-carrier unit has been disbanded, and it is probably

true that the knives have saved more lives and been used in more combat missions than the Swiss military has undertaken.

Soldiers like the knives, not only because of their capacity to open beer bottles. Between 1945 and 1949, American GIs based in Germany were allowed to take weekend leave in Switzerland and quickly discovered the knife. This was the beginning of the global market for the Swiss product, now given as a gift to people visiting the White House. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has followed suit.

About 34,000 of the knives are produced every day in Europe's biggest knife factory. The company is feeling the heat of competition from China, which has pirated the design, but the present head of the company, Carl Elsener, says he is confident that customers will stay true to high quality — the real thing makes a loud click when the blades are opened — and Swiss ingenuity.

The latest addition is a fine needle to be used to unblock frozen water jets on a car's windscreen wipers. □ Damage control: Switzerland has retained two American public relations firms to restore its image after being vilified for profiteering from its Nazi dealings. (AFP)

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Clinton under fire as struggle looms over China trade

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS on Capitol Hill yesterday fired an opening salvo in the annual debate over China's trading status, condemning the American sale of dozens of supercomputers to Beijing as a threat to national security.

The first political shot in what is certain to become a highly charged debate over "most favoured nation" status for China came as Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said the strength of Hong Kong's future free market depended on continued trade with Beijing.

Opponents of the Administration's policy of engagement with China, however, are attacking President Clinton's de-regulation of computer exports two years ago. Since then Chinese companies have bought a mountain of technology, including 46 sophisticated supercomputers capable of designing more efficient nuclear warheads.

The National Security Council, claiming civilian buyers in China have ensured that the supercomputers are not employed for other purposes, is at loggerheads with many in Washington's intelligence community who believe the technology is being diverted for military means.

"We think many of the supercomputers sold to China are being integrated into the military weapons develop-

ment area in a way that is going to make their weapons more sophisticated and lethal," said Senator Thad Cochran, a Mississippi Republican. He is holding a hearing today to examine the role of the United States in helping other countries with technology. The disclosure earlier this year that American companies had sold supercomputers to two Russian nuclear facilities prompted a wide-scale inquiry by Congress.

"There is a delicate balance that must be struck between promoting US exports and protecting our national security," said Mr Cochran. "That both Chinese and Russian nuclear weapons complexes are now in possession of American supercomputers indicates that the Clinton Administration has failed to strike the necessary balance."

The criticism comes as Republicans in Congress begin their debate over "most favoured nation" status for the world's most populous country. The vote this summer is unlikely to block Mr Clinton's decision to continue normal trade with Beijing, but the Republican and Democratic opposition is stronger than at any time in his presidency.

Congressional opponents say the Administration should suspend normal trade until China changes its policy on human rights, market access

and military exports. In The Washington Post yesterday, Ms Albright argued that continuing dialogue between the two countries provided the only means of future international integration for China.

Revoking trade status, she said, would derail prospects for Sino-American co-operation on issues ranging from the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear programme to encouraging talks between Beijing and Taipei. The Chinese would retaliate against US exports and endanger at least 170,000 American jobs.

Ms Albright highlighted Hong Kong's transfer of British sovereignty to China next month. She said that the Hong Kong government had estimated that an end to trading relations might cut as much as \$30 billion (£18 billion) from the territory's trade, eliminate as many as 85,000 jobs and reduce economic growth by half.

Japan-US military ties worry Chinese

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN sought yesterday to soothe Chinese fears about a proposed expansion of its military role in Asia as Beijing raised fresh objections to Tokyo's strengthened security ties with the United States.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, held discussions with Yukihiko Ikeda, his Foreign Minister, and Fumio Kyuma, the Defence Agency chief, on how to assuage the concerns of neighbouring countries about the new security arrangements, which would give Japan its highest military profile since the Second World War.

After high-level talks in Hawaii, Japan and America agreed to draft measures that for the first time could oblige Japan to provide US forces with substantial support. Xiong Guangkai, China's Deputy Chief of Staff, has criticised the new arrangements as a return to "Cold War thinking".



The St Gabriel's Babies Home in Melbourne, one of three institutions where tests were conducted from the 1940s

Australia 'tested vaccines on orphans'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A CLAIM that hundreds of children in Australian orphanages were used as human guinea pigs to test newly developed vaccines is to be investigated by the Victoria state government. The children, many of them babies,

were injected with test vaccines over a 25-year period until 1970. Some received adult doses of an influenza vaccine and others were injected for whooping cough and herpes. The Age in Melbourne said.

Most of the experiments were carried out in orphanages and homes for illegitimate children in the Melbourne area from the mid-1940s. There was no

suggestion that any child had died, although some became ill and feverish.

Last night health authorities defended the trials, saying that the doctors who conducted the tests should be regarded as "heroes saving lives". The tests were carried out at a time when influenza, diphtheria and polio were claiming hundreds of young lives.



President Jiang Zemin, left, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, are expected at handover ceremony

Beijing silent on who will attend 'handover show'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

ON THE flight to Qingdao in Shandong province, the China Eastern Airlines stewardess announced: "It is 660 kilometres to Qingdao, the flight time is one hour and there are 21 days until Hong Kong is reunited with the motherland."

All over China, in keeping with a government campaign, the handover of Hong Kong to China on June 30 is Topic A. But try to find out who will represent China at the ceremony in Hong Kong and there is a wall of secrecy.

At the Foreign Ministry briefing yesterday, Cui Tiankai, the official spokesman, when asked who would represent China at the handover, said: "That is not clear. You will know sooner or later."

In Shanghai, shoes on public sale carry the message: "Tomorrow is better than today. Hong Kong will return to China on June 30, 1997." In the school and parks of the country, children sing songs about Hong Kong's return to the motherland. Signs showing the baobab flower, a sterile hybrid blossom that will be the new symbol of the Special Administrative Region, are everywhere. But ceremonies in Tiananmen Square will be ticket-only affairs.

In Beijing, the railings marking the centre of the principal avenues, the lines in the road and the advertisement hoardings have all been repainted to mark the return of Hong Kong. But about 20 yards on either side of the

main boulevards, the repainted signs peter out.

Widely disseminated instructions about how to fly the official flag of China and Hong Kong indicate that the Chinese flag must fly on the right and must be bigger than the Hong Kong flag.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that President Jiang Zemin and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, will attend events on July 1 after the formal handover ceremony. Foreign diplomats in Beijing say that the presence of Mr Li would be a slap in the face for world opinion and a message to Hong Kong that it had better follow the official line.

Mr Li, who is bitterly unpopular among hundreds of millions of Chinese, is credited with establishing martial law in Beijing before the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing on June 4, 1989, in which hundreds died and is considered to have the blood of students on his hands.

□ Hong Kong: The three main universities in the colony, Hong Kong University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the City University, are in dispute about whether a statue commemorating the Tiananmen Square victims can be built on their campuses (Jonathan Minsky writes).

The statue was first seen in public here last week during the vigil attended by 60,000 people on June 4, commemorating the eighth anniversary of the killings.

'I Cut my Car Cover Costs by £200'

THIRTY ONE year old Angela Goddard, found out that she could afford her dream car - a MGF - when she was able to halve her insurance costs by phoning Norwich Union Direct.

A former Miss Anglia Television, Angela has owned MGs since she was 19 and was very keen to have the new MGF 1.8i - but could not get a viable quote because it was a sports car. "I phoned round several insurers, and although I had a good driving record, the quotes were so high that it made having the car an impossibility."

"Then I read in the newspaper that someone had cut their motor insurance costs by going to Norwich Union Direct, so I decided to give them a ring too. They gave me a quote of

£235 for comprehensive cover - half the cost of some of the insurers I spoke to. And I was able to pay by monthly premiums - very important when you have just splashed out on a new car."

Angela, who lives with her son Oliver, 6, in Ipswich, has since had to make a claim on her car insurance. She said, "It was a stupid accident. I reversed into a car in the school car park. However, Norwich Union Direct were fantastic - the claim was dealt with immediately, all over the phone with no forms to fill in, and the car was repaired by the following week."

To find out if you too could save money with Norwich Union Direct, call free on 0800 888 111 for a free quotation.



Angela Goddard could buy her dream car due to the saving she made on insurance

How top direct insurers compare

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Sundays	8am - 4pm	No	No	No	No

Carole homes in on a good deal

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE throughout Britain have discovered how quick and easy it is to buy their car insurance direct over the phone. Now this growing trend is spreading to home insurance, as satisfied customers opt to take a quicker and simpler route to buying house and contents cover.



Carole Gilchrist

Much of this new found confidence can be attributed to the fact that many of Britain's well-known direct insurers, such as Norwich Union Direct, offer the backing of a parent company renowned for quality and financial strength within the industry.

A typical example is Carole Gilchrist, who when the time came to renew her buildings and contents insurance recalled the

savings she had made through buying her motor insurance over the phone.

Carole felt that they were paying a lot of money to insure their four bedroom dormer bungalow home in Littleborough, Lancashire. "I had decided that it was worth shopping around the leading companies, and it seemed the easiest way to do so was to make a few calls to get some quotations," she said.

"Having the family's cars insured through direct operators, I know how simple the paperless process is, and wanted to see if we could gain the same cost advantages for renewing the cover for our house."

A premium of £247.95 a year was quoted for buildings and contents cover by Norwich Union Direct, which Carole accepted and cover was immediately arranged. "We did make a saving with Norwich Union Direct - but that was not the main reason for my choice. The level of cover they offered was superior to our existing company and the competition."

To find out if you too could save on household insurance like Carole, ring free on 0800 888 222 for a free quotation. If you insure both your house and contents with Norwich Union Direct you will save even more money on your premium.

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Norwich Union Direct's, Jon Kirk said "Seventy per cent of car drivers have some form of breakdown and recovery service, costing around £85 a year - almost twice as much as Protection Plus."

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Strike a pose: Naomi Campbell models one of Lainey Keogh's creations at London Fashion Week

Yarns to charm the rich and famous

She has never studied fashion but the exquisite knitwear by Irish designer Lainey Keogh is sought after by supermodels and celebrities alike. Interview by Noreen Taylor

Who did supermodels Naomi, Helena, Honor, Iris and Jodie get out of bed for during London Fashion Week in return for nothing more than a piece of clothing? For someone few of us have even heard of — Lainey Keogh, the Irish knitwear designer and the wealthy woman's secret.

"Such lovely girls," she enthuses back in her Dublin atelier behind buzzing Grafton Street. "And so excited over my clothes. Made me feel great, that appreciation."

Lainey's show was staged at the Cobden Club, styled by Isabella Blow. It was the fashion industry's official recognition of a woman whose business has been thriving for almost ten years. Trophy wives, rock and film stars buy her creations from such exclusive boutiques as Fred Segal in Los Angeles, Joseph in Paris, Luigi of Florence and Browns in London.

"I heard after she died that Jackie Onassis used to buy my sweaters," says Keogh wistfully. "I wish I'd known so I could have written to her and said, 'Thank you, you mega-person, for wearing my clothes'."

But it's too late now. Few of Lainey's garments can be bought for under £1,000. And the word "knitted" somehow fails to convey the artistry of her clothes. They are spun from richly coloured silk threads, from cashmere with tints inspired by drifts of mountain smoke, from chenille with pigments so exquisite that they look as if they have been borrowed from the vestments of a Borgias pope.

Lainey has never studied fashion or attended art school. She was brought up on the outskirts of Dublin, one of ten children, and her father ran a market garden. "I'm the product of a great, big, passionate Irish family," she says proudly.

"My mother knitted Aran sweaters and I used to be fascinated watching as the shapes and patterns grew. They were so intricate, sensual even. Then she taught me, and I used to make all my dolls' clothes. Yes, I know you would have expected me to have gone to a design college. Instead, at 19, I began studying microbiology, and went on to work in a Dublin hospital lab."

"Disillusion set in about three years later. That coincided with me falling in love for the first time. I made him the most beautiful sweater, layered with suede and

leather strips. I gave it to him, he wore it, and then he went off and married someone else."

The man she loved produced records for U2, and the sweater he wore quickly became the most coveted garment in Dublin rock circles. Marianne Faithfull ordered one to wear on a cover album. The singer Enya bought one. Michael Mortell, the Irish designer, commissioned one for his collection.

"People were enchanted and very supportive," says Lainey. "I was always being invited to things, introduced to people. Eventually, I taught others who became part of my knitting team."

She is pale-skinned, with tousled, auburn curls and defiant blue eyes, and her figure, encased in one of

her own chenille dresses, is comfortably curved. She projects a blend of seen-it-all cynicism rather than the usual bouncy kind of joy associated with fresh success.

My request to know her age is brushed aside: "That doesn't matter." I suspect she's in her mid-thirties. "I have no home," she says, "no husband, no children. I have lovers though, and my wonderful team of seven in the office, which is what you see here."

What you see is an Aladdin's cave, stacked full of her next winter collection. The man who got away may have broken her heart, but keeping her head has won her a coveted place in the fashion industry.

Perfect timing, too. During the late Eighties, a newly confident Ireland emerged. Gifted young people found they could stay at home, write their books, plays and songs. Film-makers, attracted by talent, beautiful unspoiled landscapes and a Government which provided tax breaks, began swarming across Dublin. So many productions were going on at one time that the place became known as Belle Eire.

Costume designers who had become friends began commissioning her to do pieces for various films, and finally an Irish-American businessman introduced her to Barneys, the New York store.

"I turned down three meetings with him after I'd found his business was called Top of the Morning. Eventually, I resigned myself and found that he really had an impressive reputation in the American market." Various other

exclusive boutiques stretching from Palm Beach to San Francisco followed and soon Lainey was on the backs of those who could afford quilted cashmere coats: Liz Taylor, Demi Moore, the Stones, Jack Nicholson and Whoopi Goldberg.

"The prices were no obstacle. Each garment is hand-made, and if they can afford them, people don't mind buying something they see as a work of art," says Keogh. "The Americans took everything. Their mouths just dropped open when I opened my suitcases and showed them what I'd made."

The fibres come from Italy but the clothes are made in Ireland. "I love being able to have those words — Made in Ireland — on my label. I'm very aware that I'm privileged being able to operate in my own spot."

I fear I'm beginning to make this journey of mine sound as though it was one quick bound up the stairway to success, because it wasn't. About eight years ago, I woke up to find myself under a mountain of debt. I was a naive enthusiast, hobbling along, not bothering with accounts or charging proper rates. When people saw how much I owed, they urged me to get out, declare myself a bankrupt, to just forget everything and hide away somewhere. How could I do that? Knitting was my life. And what about my family's good name?

"So I forced myself to stick at it, to learn about profit margins, accounts, credit loans. By July 1992, I had paid off my debts and was ready to take the next step."

Now she has 15 hand-knitters working from home who take about a month to make a sweater. "The mass market doesn't excite me. I enjoy the slow, complicated process that goes into creating each piece. The kind of clothes I want to design will always be individually crafted pieces, and as such cannot be made cheaply. I like to design for women of all sizes — confident, sexy women who are comfortable with their body shape."

Women with money? "My clothes are like an investment," comes the dismissive reply. "They invite desire."

Pulling extravagantly lavish cashmere coats from rails to illustrate her point, she strokes the fabric with all the sensuality and affection usually reserved for lovers or babies, crooning their praises.

"Look at this dress! Iris Palmer wore it and looked divine," she says. "There were risks on every step of this journey, but they were worth it."

"Men disappoint, babies grow up and leave you. You'd be right in thinking that clothes are both my pleasure and my reward."



Saucy number: Chrystelle



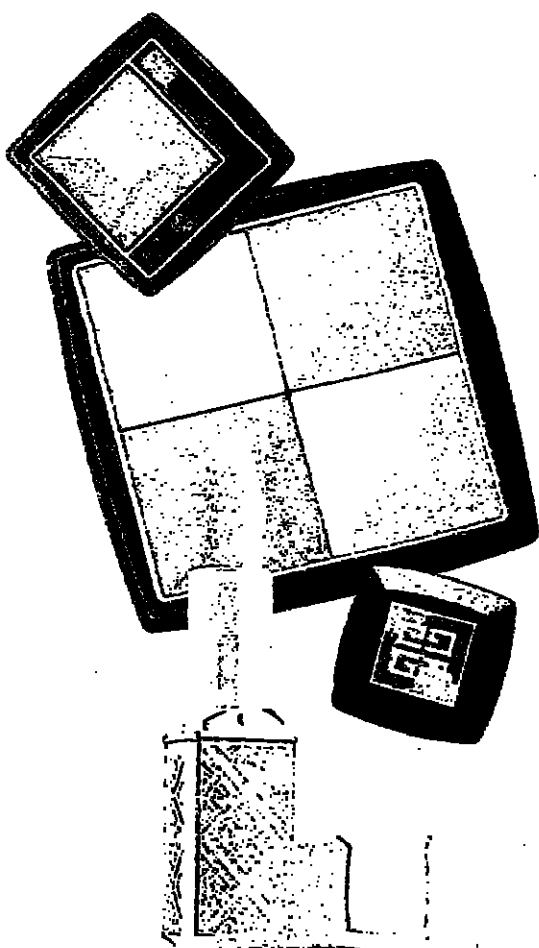
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HOT BUYS — COOL TRENDS

MOTORISED scooters of the kind six-year-olds used to ride are becoming this summer's equivalent of rollerblades. At a party last week, thrown by Trace magazine, the low whirr of these faintly ridiculous skateboard-cum-mopeds could be heard all evening as the likes of Jungle DJ Goldie arrived on his Badsey Zip (around £650). Cheapest are the Go-Peds, from £500. At the top of the market is the Badsey EMX £1,995. Bob Geldof, Meg Matthews — Noel Gallagher's wife — and Bjork have all bought scooters. Board Silly, Old Church Street, London SW3 (0171 352 6456).

THE American magazine *Al-lure* calls it a "collapsible nylon tote". Prada has created a shopping trolley. It has wheels at the back and plastic

legs at the front, and is made from the same industrialised nylon as the ubiquitous rucksack. There are no plans to stock it in Prada's Sloane Street store, but it can be purchased in New York for a mere \$480 (£300).

HELEN STOREY, the fashion designer, is joining forces with her sister Kate, a developmental biologist, to produce her first collection since her business collapsed in 1995. The clothes, based on the development of the human embryo, will be presented during London Fashion Week this autumn. The sisters have received a £25,000 grant as part of a new scheme by the Wellcome Trust, aiming to bring scientists and artists together.

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A baby to bind him

Like Jerry Hall, Maureen Freely had a fourth 'impulse' child. While it may not keep Mick Jagger in line, she believes it is still a good idea

If you fall in love with a famous rake and decide to have a child with him, people will shake their heads but tell you how brave you are. If you have a second child, they'll agree that it's only fair to give that first mistake a brother or sister. They'll hope that the rake will slow down and become a "real" father once he has a "real" family. If he speeds up instead, and you have a third child anyway, the smiles grow thinner and the looks more knowing. "You thrive on drama," they say. And if you go on to have a fourth...

It was only last autumn that Jerry Hall decided Mick Jagger had made one conquest too many and paid a visit to her solicitors to discuss a divorce. Now they're suddenly an item again, and are sealing the kiss by having another child. I don't mean this question to sound accusing — it's because I had a fourth 'impulse' child myself that I'm asking it — but does Jerry Hall have any idea what a hard time people are going to give her?

Now that we have the technology to be "sensible" about family size, it's just not done to have a fourth child under inauspicious circumstances. Even if you're married to Mr Bedrock, doctors and other experts think of you as self-destructive. It will take years for Jerry to get her street cred back. If my own experience is anything to go by, this pregnancy will be much harder work than the others because she's going to have to go without the benefit of anyone's doubts.

Every stranger in the street is going to think that she is having this baby to keep Mick where she wants him. Even close friends will be asking themselves about other ulterior motives. If they know what size of settlement she was planning to seek in the divorce that never happened, they will be discussing how much more she can claim once she has that fourth mouth to feed. If they care about her feelings, they'll do their guesswork out of earshot, but even so, their loyal silences will increase her sense of isolation.

The nature of her loneliness while carrying this baby will depend on the manner of its



Hall with Scarlett and James. After discussing divorce last year, she and Jagger are now expecting a fourth baby

conception. Did she throw her pills out of the window because Mick was kneeling in front of her offering her anything, anything, in exchange for forgiveness? If so, the honeymoon will be worth every lie, and if he reverts to

type, it will be more painful than any betrayal.

You can't avoid harsh soul-searching when you've walked into a trap you knew was there. It's all the harder to bear if the baby in question was not, as the euphemism goes, "wanted equally by both parents". If Mick thinks he's been used, he is not going to be "there for her" when she has morning sickness, and every time he feels the baby kick, it will remind him of the trap he's walked into.

He'll have little trouble convincing himself that he's owed a little time off now and again in exchange for agreeing to play father. The worst thing is that she'll have given him his best line excuse: "And then she tricked me into getting her pregnant." They will not just hate Jerry for her perfidy. They'll also adore him for what they take to be his stoicism and loyalty. These are the deceptions by which one triangle begets another. No baby ever saved a troubled marriage. All it does is make the web more tangled. There are many instances of unreliable men growing up once they have children, but if it hasn't happened to Mick with his first handful of children, it's unlikely to happen now.

And while it's true that reluctant fathers sometimes go from one extreme to the other when they set eyes on their child, often they warm to the child by cooling to its mother.

If that's what happens to Jerry, she's not going to be able to complain to her closest

friends without hearing them say: "You can't say I didn't warn you!" Nothing she does will ever budge their condescending opinions of her low aptitude for marriage: for them, she will always be just one of those women who will put up with any amount of bad behaviour because she's afraid of facing facts/being single/getting old. They may have been surprised by this preg-

'The bad times will recur, but so will the happy times'

nancy, but never again! From now on, she might as well wear a label saying "Baby Machine". And if she doesn't start doing her abdominal lifts in the labour room, she is going to have to endure years of people asking about the due date every time she forgets her posture and sticks out her stomach.

No, it's not a soft option, bringing extra children into the world when their father is an infamous loose cannon. But in spite of all of the above indignities, I don't think she'll regret a single one. So what if the new, enlarged family she sees in her dreams never quite

becomes a reality? At least she sees the possibility of a happier life. It might be an illusion that a new baby makes a fresh start possible, but while it lasts, it has a reinvigorating effect — on the other children in the family as well as the adults. Bad times will recur, but so will happy times. Isn't that enough?

The fashionable answer is no. You're not supposed to go into parenthood without a sound business plan and a partner with an iron-clad record. If you go ahead anyway, you stand accused of selfishness, of wanting children for the wrong reasons. But tell me, what's a good reason for having children these days? Is it running up huge bills? Giving up films and leisurely holidays? Going without sleep? Sacrificing two decades of love on a child who walks out of the house in the middle of the night to go to a grunge gig?

If there is no rational justification to have a first baby, it makes sense to accuse a woman having a fourth — especially a woman who could afford to feed 400 — of being selfish or irresponsible.

I'm sure Jerry Hall is having her fourth for the same reasons I did: because she loves children, because it cheers her up to watch them grow up, because she thinks she does a good job, because she knows she is strong enough to see them through adversity. She's just doing her best. I think we should all wish her well and let her be.

The new rules of class in a modern world

We are so saturated by sex that it is hardly surprising we're getting bored by it and are ready to turn to that other great tabloid talking point: class. And I suspect that's a subject of which we will never tire. I had presumed when I first saw mention of last night's programme of the same name in the television listings, that it was a repeat. Well, one does. I saw the names Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Tamara Beckwith, all the usual suspects, and dimly remembered a similarly touted programme going out not so long ago.

In fact this programme was very different, and markedly better. The contributors were more intelligent, the production (and other) values higher and the perspective slightly more measured, more honest. Having said that, this first programme in a series of three, focused on, supposedly, toff territory and so all the usual visual tricks were pulled. We had Ascot and, leading up to it, scenes of expensive shopping, the usual images of feckless extravagance and display of riches, the sort we evidently love to watch with great play of contempt.

What programmes such as this imply is that nothing has changed: we are as class-ridden a society as ever we were. This is flawed on a number of counts. I am always wary of the English (and it's predominantly English rather than British) habit of assuming that we are more class-ridden, more snobbish than any other country. I rather feel that if we were better linguists we might be more sensitive to the class nuances of, say, the French and the Austrians, to name a couple of peoples who could give us lessons in snobbism. Peter York rightly pointed out that our class system is very "permeable" — but it always has been. To think of society as having been rigidly stratified throughout the ages is ridiculous. Read *Vanity Fair* — the novel not the magazine.

Though, apropos the latter, there is a way in which the class system has changed extraordinarily, and the architect of this change has been Diana, Princess of Wales. Time was, models wanted to be princesses: now princesses want to be models. And we don't find it remarkable. It's all showbiz now, and that obliterates everything — the old distinctions, ways of behaving — from the fast-disappearing aristocratic point of view.

But the Princess has been the agent of change in other ways. If the monarchy were simply got rid of, the aristocracy would go all but underground; we would have an *ancien régime*. As it is, the monarchy has been destabilised, and from within. Peregrine Worsthorne gave the view at the beginning of the programme that an aristocratic elite,

the monarchy and all that lot, "creates a model which the rest of society aspires to". Does he think that really? Even now?

The Princess changed our view of how society works, how the classes behave: she is an aristocrat who shows no desire to behave like one (and I don't mean that disparagingly: or rather I infer the disparagement is hers); she takes her children to Alton Towers; she talks of hugging and feelings; she shuns discretion and spills the beans about her private life; she chooses self-expression over self-sacrifice. And, pointedly, while Tamara, unashamedly nouveau riche, speaks in a parody of an upper class drawl, the Princess's vowels are more coolly Mockney.

In other words, she is a modern. And I'm not sure the modern world accommodates the class system very well. It is too concerned with fame and celebrity and designer clothes. What people aspire to now is the life of the nouveaux riches, not of the aristocracy. Most of the people who were meant to be toffs in last night's programme were not: they were the well-heeled middle class, nothing aristocratic about them. But because we like to see ourselves as so heinously class-bound, it fits our scheme of things to see all those who are enjoying themselves expensively as a pampered, sniffy elite.

And Peter York made a very good point here, too: we all like to think that the nobles sneer at the nouveaux, but these days it is rather the other way around. The nouveaux riches don't need to pretend they've got inherited money for approval any more. The notion of the self-made man or woman is not an abhorrent one. We admire people who work hard; indeed our most famous aristocratic model, Stella Tennant, went to great pains in a recent interview in *Hello!* to tell us all how hard she'd had to work to get where she is.

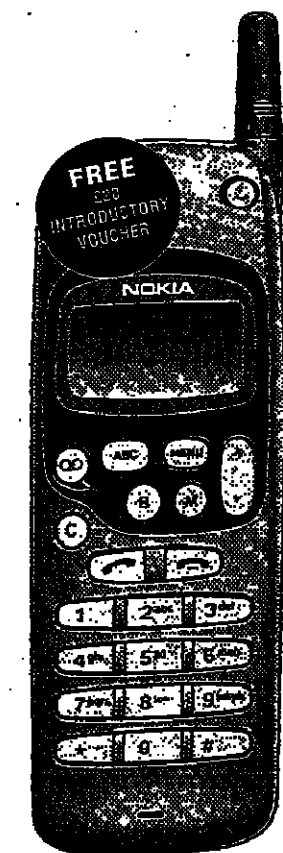
No one wants to be seen to be coasting languorously through a graciously aristocratic life any more. And last night, as the posh were supposedly scrutinised, it was interesting to see the little explanatory tags on the screen describing one woman as a banker, another as a property developer. They're not wives and girlfriends and chateaux now: they do things. Some of the steps remain, but the dance is different.

Of course, notions of what is or isn't smart — what used to be called breeding by those sufficiently unsmart to talk about such things — still apply, but the fact that so many people are willing to go on TV to discuss whether it is U or non-U to do this, that or the other, truly shows that the old rules no longer hold.



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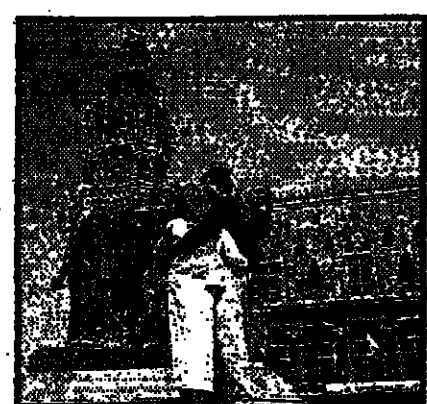
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Alan Coren



At Collingtree did Kubla Khan a stately Barratt Home decree

You find me, this morning, fraught with imponderability as to why Barratt, described in their brochure as Britain's Premier House Builder, should have sent me that brochure in the first place. Was it because they thought I might be looking for a second place? A bucolic weekend bolthole, say, far from the bustling peripatetic chic of Cricklewood? Or even somewhere to replace Cricklewood altogether, given that, for all its legendary boons, it is noticeably short of the lakes, golf courses, and lush greenward of Collingtree Park, identified (by Barratt) as the finest and most prestigious location in the entire Northampton area?

Or is it simply that Barratt believe that, however content I am in my current premises, with no thought of upping sticks, this thought might nevertheless be put into my head by the news that at Collingtree Park they have created a literary environment whose atmosphere a hack would find irresistible, rich as it must be in regenerative stimulus for an imagination worn to a frazzle by 40 years at the rock face? For the Collingtree Park Estate — described as A Premier Collection — is composed of houses called Wordsworth, and Tennyson, and Longfellow, and Coleridge. These, it should be noted, are not individual dwellings, but individual styles: some have been built, but others will be added as the development grows, which means that if you move quickly you may, for £379,850, snap up Early Wordsworth, a period any A-level student will tell you found him in prime nick, but if instead you dither until you end up with Late Wordsworth, when the old twerp had bumbled into rickety disorder, you might well find yourself regretting that you didn't go for the bargain Longfellow at £261,500.

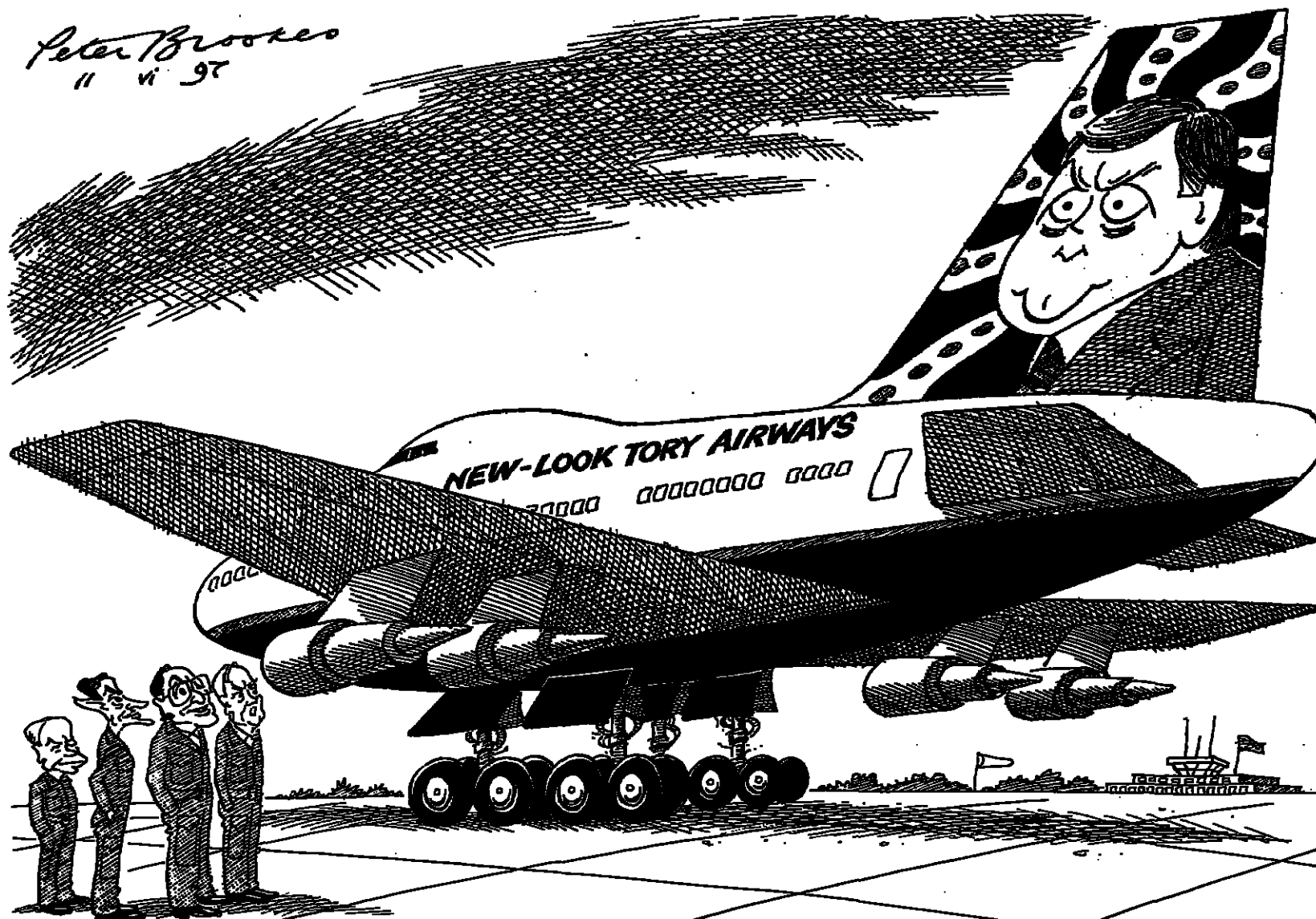
Which — though it lacks the keynote pond fronting the Wordsworth, inviting purchasers to row back and forth across their miniature Grasmere, trailing clouds of glory, until it is time for the pondside daffs to sprout up for a bit of a dance — has enough bespoke features of its own to fill the head with Henry's rollicking rhythms as one potters his premises: See the fully fitted kitchen. Each appliance integrated. Note the seamless double-glazing. Finest and the most prestigious. Let us look now at the garden. Lo! its broad and sunny aspect. Lo! its wealth of shrubs and borders.

It has only a double garage, mind. The Wordsworth has a treble. I don't know why this should be, he got along at Dove Cottage, as I recall from my school visit, with a ramshackle outhouse. God knows what Barratt were thinking about, one each for William and Dorothy, possibly, with a spare in case Southey drove over, although he could always stay across the road at the Coleridge (£279,950), which also has two, unless, of course, a person from Porlock has turned up unexpectedly.

Why the Coleridge, incidentally, should be £10,000 more than the Tennyson, I cannot guess, except that, from the brochure, the Tennyson looks, stylistically, to be something of a dog's breakfast; surprising to find that so meticulous a prosodist should have not only an asymmetric double-front, one side flat and brick, the other succored with a bay, but also two titchy fake-Tudor windows over a garage topped by a roof unappealingly lower than the rest of the place. Hardly what one would expect of a man who could nail together an item as tricky as *Ulysses* with not a syllable out of kilter.

Stop this. We know that Barratt aren't thinking about poetry at all, but seeking merely to confer upon their properties the property of traditional quality associated with names hallowed by blackboard consensus. Barratt, like all the other big developers, have ever trusted the heritage for their themed estates, unearthened Drakes and Wellingtons and Marlboroughs, Constables and Gainsboroughs and Turners, all to endow their instant mock-villages with spurious tone. Pressing the culture's immortal poets into service is entirely consistent, indeed, given the plummeting state of that culture: it is quite possible that, any day now, it will be the sole remaining means of ensuring their immortality.

This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a Wimpey.



"IT'LL BE A DISASTER.... TOTAL WASTE OF MONEY..."

Stick to your party's man

The country recognises Clarke as a giant among parliamentary pygmies: Tory MPs would be mad to reject him

The lost children in Golding's *Lord of the Flies* soon forgot the need to survive. Instead they danced, yelled, formed gangs and murdered each other, thus parodying the rituals of an English private school. Meanwhile the corpse of their crashed pilot gazed down from a treetop. Leadership was twisting in the wind. Madness ruled.

The Conservative Party is Britain's oldest and most potent political movement. It can also be the craziest. Of the candidates who stood in last night's leadership contest, one stands head and shoulders above the rest. Whether or not I agree with Kenneth Clarke's policy portfolio, polls indicate that he is the overwhelming favourite among voters at large: 31 per cent support among Tories and the public generally, against 9 per cent for his nearest challenger, William Hague. He is experienced, intelligent and combative, an ideal foil for Tony Blair. Why not choose him?

Last night Mr Clarke appeared to have "won" the leadership overwhelmingly in a vote among some 600 party activists. He has come top in the MPs' poll. Yet tonight the parliamentary party is locked in combat between Mr Clarke's team and a "stop Clarke" bandwagon. The purpose of that bandwagon is to balk the man who would be the choice of their party and the voters generally. We are witnessing a classic of the party as club rather than as movement.

The Tory constitution lays down that the leader be chosen by an electoral college of sitting MPs. The invention of this college in 1965 replaced the old "customary processes", but hardly gave the party a more democratic format. The intention was that an insecure leader could be challenged by a "stalking horse" without the loyalty of colleagues being tested on a first ballot. Thus did Margaret Thatcher fall in 1990. But the franchise did not extend to the party in the country. MPs were expected to listen to their constituents' views before casting their vote, but that was the extent of their democratic duty.

The rationale for this was elitist. The old saw holds that a leader who can "command the House can command the party and thus the country". It was the peculiar genius of this constitution that gave the country Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and John Major in 1990, in preference to Willie Whitelaw or Michael Heseltine. MPs claim that by watching politicians perform on their

feet at close quarters they are uniquely well-placed to judge their leadership. Indirect democracy is the British way, mob rule constrained by oligarchy. It has given Britain the best leaders in the world, so it is said.

In the 1980s the trade unions pleaded just this case when the Tory government tried to reform them. They claimed that only union insiders could understand the membership yet restrain its tendency to anarchy. Lady Thatcher blew that argument out of the water. When the actions of associations or institutions affect the wider community, she said, they must be subject to the widest possible franchise.

That was the essence of legitimacy. Yet if a trade union decision affects the wider community, so much more does a Tory leadership decision. Britain is now choosing its putative next Prime Minister. What unique insight into the qualification for this post is possessed by just 164 people?

The Tory party now seems to agree with Lady Thatcher. The 1922 Committee has accepted the need for a college embracing the party in the country. This party has just indicated its preference for Mr Clarke. For MPs, as their last act of exclusivity, to defy that view would be eccentric. To justify such a slap in the party's face, they must know things about Mr Clarke that the party could not judge for itself. There must be wider considerations or dark secrets which outsiders cannot comprehend. The oligarchs must have their reasons.

This is a tall order. Certainly Mr Clarke embodies the old-fashioned "dignified" rather than the "efficient" school of Toryism. He recalls Lord Horne's story of the corps cadet found smoking in the long grass. When reprimanded and asked his tactics for attack, he replied: "Opportunism based on inertia" — a good description of Mr Clarke's leadership campaign. To his colleagues,

Mr Clarke is a curious mix, disorganised, undogmatic, a hater of vested interests, a poor chairman, but also relaxed and with a common touch. He is a suburban lawyer with a pint, cigarillo and suede shoes who could just pass muster as a knight of the shire. The contrast could not be more stark with the lean, hungry men of the Thatcherite succession, now circling him with daggers in their togas.

The appeal of the anti-Clarke lobby is motivated by defeatism and ideological fog. The party will be out of office for ten years, so let us tear up our programme and return to basics. Thatcherism was the one successful -ism to come the Tory party's way since the last war. Let us summon its acolytes to re-examine the corpse for signs of life. Michael Howard, Peter Lilley, John Redwood, it does not matter which. This is the moment for the message, not the man.

Forget popularity. This is back-to-drawing-board time. Or take a pig-in-a-poke. Be vague, ask for...

Such defeatism is ludicrous. The last election was not a democratic triumph for Labour. It was only the crazy arithmetic of first-past-the-post that made it seem so. The Labour vote was roughly the same as that secured by Mr Major in 1992. Labour's share, at 44 per cent, was lower than was won by any government in the 1950s or 1960s. Mr Blair's Commons majority may be magnificent and dazzle the press corps, but it is not real war.

Tory voters stayed at home because "it is time for a change". They did not rush to Labour. The present Government has no more substantive popular support than did Mr Major in the last Parliament, and is most unlikely to increase that support at a future election. The Tory party may need only to sit tight, shut up and recharge its local batteries for victory to be within its grasp. Get out the 14 million Tory votes that held

between 1979 and 1992, snatch 2 per cent off Labour for anti-government swing, and a Tory win is feasible. Mr Blair and his team are canny enough to know this. Only the Tories go round talking about ten years in opposition.

The ideological fog is no less absurd. The Tories are still behaving as if they lost the argument as well as the election. They did not. They won the argument, which is why they lost the election. The Thatcher-Major era produced a Britain safe enough to risk giving the Labour Party a turn in power, and a Labour Party safe enough to be risked with that turn. New Labour is one of the Tory party's great achievements. Lady Thatcher presided not just over the death of history but the death of ideology, and not just in Britain but across Europe.

The Conservatives are now choosing a leader to present to the country as prime minister in the new millennium. There is nothing in the psephology, the ideology or the demography of Britain to stop them winning that election. History could well view Mr Blair as having done no more than keep Downing Street warm, while those who fashioned Britain's economic success in the 1990s took a tea break. That at least is the way the Conservatives should be thinking.

If I were a Tory MP I would have reservations about Mr Clarke. He is a card, a character actor, rather than a star performer. He is no longer young. He can appear idle, with the political arrogance that comes from long service in the Treasury. Above all he cannot mask his distaste for those who serve in what must now be the engine room of Tory recovery, the party in the constituencies and above all in local government. He is a ferocious centralist.

Yet he has plainly won the confidence of the bulk of his party. The party does not want another Lady Thatcher, a leader required to pioneer a revolution (and rarely popular). Mr Clarke offers the most plausible welcome when the ranks of Labour defectors begin to swell. He can welcome back old statesmen to the fold: Chris Patten, Malcolm Rifkind, Michael Portillo. He is the man to heal the wounds of the past two years.

If Mr Clarke does not work out, there is no problem. There is time for second thoughts. One thing the Tories have come to love is a leadership contest. In opposition they can have one every year. After the healing can come more wounding. They are still lords of the flies.

Simon Jenkins

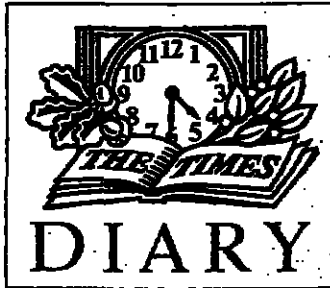
Lost and found

FOR the residents of Brasted, Kent, Tuesday, June 10, will not be a day easily forgotten. For it was at teatime yesterday afternoon that Sir Lancelot, the llama belonging to Lord and Lady Nolan, returned. He had first been noticed missing 24 hours earlier when the gamekeeper at Chevening, the deputy Prime Minister's grace-and-favour country house nearby, telephoned the local police to report a stray llama roaming the grounds. He presumed it must be Sir Lancelot, for the last two years guardian of the Nolans' sheep.

Lady Nolan returned from London next morning to co-ordinate the recovery in person.

She takes up the tale: "The gamekeeper from the estate next to Chevening telephoned the following morning to report another sighting. I turned up in the Land Rover; no sign of him. Then someone else reported seeing him in Knockholt, so I tore up there. He'd gone by the time I got there."

At the suggestion of David Tomlinson, motoring writer for *Country Life* and Brasted neighbour, Lady Nolan went on Radio



Kent to ask if anyone had seen her llama. All the while her husband, the sleaze-buster, was in committee meetings in Westminster. "He had more important things to think about," said Lady N. "though he did call at lunch to see how the search was going."

Then around teatime, Sir Lancelot casually reappeared. His mouth full of cud, he sauntered back into view and reassured his position overseeing his flock. "It's a great relief," said Lady Nolan. "I just hope he's got whatever it was out of his system now."

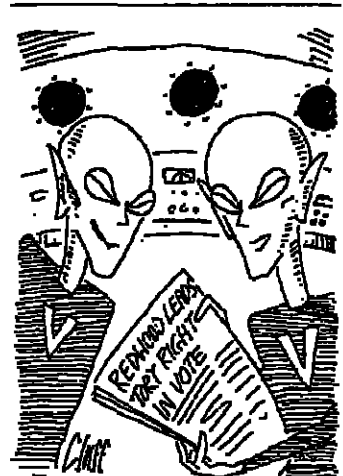
Gowrie stays

AFTER the sudden departure of their secretary-general Mary Allen for the shambles of the Royal Opera House, staff at the Arts Council have been understand-

ably jumpy. Chris Smith, however, has moved to reassure them.

He has asked Lord Gowrie, the former Tory Minister, to stay on for another year-and-a-half and finish his five-year contract as Arts Council chairman.

Before Labour came to power, the story was that Gowrie would have to go and that somebody on the Left with artistic hitting power — the omnipotent Melvyn Bragg perhaps — would come in and save the day. But Gowrie has found an unlikely ally in Smith and Bragg appears to have been passed over.



"Excellent! Our campaign goes well!"

Just three seconds after the result of the Tory leadership vote was announced, all the members of John Redwood's exultant campaign team felt their pages go off. Up flashed the message: "We're going all the way, JR."

Spice boys

AS TORIES find themselves able to laugh now about their recent general election performance, tales of high jinks emerge from the senior ranks. One day, in the midst of the sleaze trouble, John Major and his entourage found themselves in Inverness. Major stayed in his hotel while his two closest aides, Lord Cranborne and Howell James, went off to a curry house with air stewardesses from the PM's plane.

When they turned out for duty the next morning, their faces were green and they were shuffling like naughty schoolboys. They told the PM about their curry. What else asked Major? James piped up. He had vague recollections of them both bouncing stewardesses on their knees. There might have been pictures. Neil Hamilton would seem like nothing in comparison. Major himself began to turn green but James and Cranborne could bear it no longer and burst out laughing. They had eaten and drunk too much, but



Iman: cancelled

bouncing stewardesses? Just winding you up, Sir.

No show

THERE were tears, an eleven-hour panic and warnings of re-creation when supermodel Iman, David Bowie's wife, failed to turn up to open the Bhs Graduate Fashion Show in London on Monday.

Iman cancelled by telephone at the last minute and frantic calls were made to find a replacement. "There was no opening, we had to abandon the photo-call and it was dreadfully disappointing," said a distraught show organiser.

P.H.S

Played false by memory

Derwent May on a battle among psychiatrists

A few weeks ago Lady Parker, the physician wife of Sir Peter Parker, resigned from the committee of Refuge, the charity that helps battered women and children, because some of its members thought her position was incompatible with her chairmanship of the British False Memory Society. The aim of this society, based in Bradford-on-Avon, is to alert people to the way in which untrue memories of childhood sexual abuse are being elicited from patients, often young women, during psychotherapy — with nightmarish consequences for the parents or other adults who are falsely accused of the abuse. Lady Parker did not believe that there was any conflict of interest in her position, but she accepted Refuge's decision.

Now it looks as if a bigger row is about to break out over this highly charged subject. The Royal College of Psychiatrists set up a large and impressive working party to look into the whole question of supposed "repressed" and "recovered" memory, which delivered its report almost a year ago. Nothing has since been heard of it since.

The college says that it is preparing a set of guidelines for psychiatrists based on the report, and hopes to publish them in July. But the chairman of the working party, Sydney Brandon, the Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Leicester University, is getting very impatient, and is beginning to wonder if the report will be published at all. Another member of the working party, Dr Janet Boakes, of St George's Hospital, Tooting, has said that she is equally disturbed by the delay.

The report, I understand, urges scepticism and extreme caution about accepting claims of "recovered memory". But the college has many members with a firm Freudian conviction that the memories of disturbed patients must be both believed and followed up. So a battle royal — as one might say — is going on within the college over the wording of these proposed guidelines.

Dr Patrick Bateson, the Provost of King's College, Cambridge, who is on the scientific board of the False Memory Society, put it this way: "Psychiatrists who draw out memories like these from their patients do not believe that corroboration is their business. If there is any chance that there has been abuse, nothing else matters." Similarly, Dr Boakes says: "The psychiatrists who believe in recovered memory act in good faith. But they make a distinction between empirical evidence, which is for other people, and their own interpretative or hermeneutic approach. For them there is what they call 'narrative truth' — what the patient believes — and that is all that matters." (That is also the view of the more militantly feminist members of Refuge about what women say — which explains their opposition to Lady Parker.)

If this strange psychiatric approach affected only the patient, perhaps it would not matter so much. But already in America, and to some extent here, it has led to the traumatic break-up of families and even to criminal prosecutions of accused parents. Yet there is real "empirical" evidence to show that memories of abuse can be wholly false. Many of the "memories" go back to a period in babyhood before memory begins. Many young women patients, when they are presented with evidence from dates and photographs that their claims could possibly not be true, have completely retracted — and then sued their psychiatrist for false diagnosis, or even for implanting the false memories.

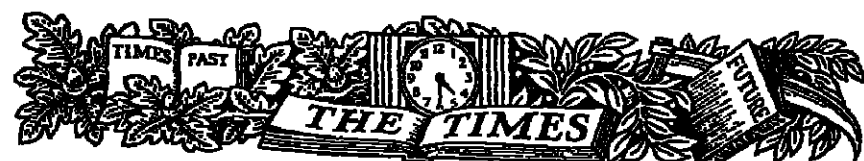
Dr Bateson has seen a video record of a remarkable experiment that was carried out under stringent control. A small girl was given a normal physical examination by a paediatrician. A little later the girl was given a doll, and asked to show on the doll what the doctor did to her. The first time, she gave a more or less accurate representation of the way he examined her abdomen and so on. But when, on successive occasions, she was asked to enact again what he had done, a greater degree of sexuality appeared each time, until finally she took a pencil and thrust it between the doll's legs.

Clearly, her own imagination had introduced the sexuality into her "recollection". It is a dramatic demonstration of, at least, the possibility of "false memory". One has only to consider what might have happened to the paediatrician if the girl had been questioned by a psychiatrist and come up with that memory.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists should not only produce guidelines for its practitioners, but now also open up the subject to proper debate. The psychiatrists themselves are in danger if their diagnoses prove to be false and damaging (which does, it must be admitted, make the headline Freudians seem rather courageous). But the matter extends far beyond their interests.

The distinguished American anti-Freudian professor, Frederick Crews — whose book on the subject, *The Memory Wars*, is reviewed in *The Times* tomorrow — has compared these so-called "memories" to the "spectral evidence" of demonic possession which led to witches being burnt. Now, however, it is the "witch's" parents who go to the stake.

Professor Brandon told me that if his report is not published soon, he will either explode, or publish it himself. It is high time for the Royal College of Psychiatrists to come clean.



ON TO ROUND TWO

Thatcherites must choose their leader

Kenneth Clarke may have won the first round of the Tory leadership election, but the broadest smiles last night graced the features of William Hague and John Redwood. This was a battle of expectation and interpretation as much as of votes. The Shadow Chancellor's victory was widely predicted in the press, and was in line with the National Union's consultation exercise. He has not, however, opened up the clear lead over the other contenders for which he hoped. With no rival on the centre-left, Mr Clarke required a level of support in the fifties to be confident of grasping the laurel. In contrast, both Mr Hague and Mr Redwood surpassed expectations and enjoy, for the moment, momentum. Both will now try to convince the centre-right of their strengths as standard-bearer. Both still have some convincing to do.

Every campaign was a coalition and no candidate enjoyed a monopoly of support from any of the party's traditions but the figures, broadly, confirm the strength of the radicals in parliamentary Tory ranks. The Lilley, Howard and Redwood camps drew the vast majority of their strength from the free-market, Eurosceptic right. Most of Mr Hague's supporters would align themselves with that strand of thinking and Mr Hague has sought to make it his own. On any reading of the result, the Conservative parliamentary party is still a Thatcherite creature. It cannot agree, however, on who should be her heir.

In the days ahead it must. Mr Clarke has fought a principled campaign, with the brio and honesty of one of Parliament's most impressive performers. If he was ever, however, to prove that he could be the radical leader that the Tory Party needs it had to be by attracting a sufficiently broad range of support in the MPs' ballot. His success in attracting the support of constituency representatives should not be dismissed, but for the purposes of this ballot it should be taken at a discount.

The figures released by the National Union distort the true strength of grass-roots feeling by giving the vote accorded to

chairmen of widely-differing constituencies exactly the same weight, irrespective of their membership levels. Moreover, by recording only which candidate topped each constituency poll, but not how each activist voted, it exaggerated the support for Mr Clarke. If there is one clear lesson to be drawn from the election so far, then it is the need to adopt a more transparent and democratic method for consulting the wider membership.

Before then, however, MPs must weigh the merits of those who remain in the field to ensure that a candidate is elected who can effectively champion the party's core principles. John Redwood emerges a more considerable figure for having defied the doubters to come third. His campaign was characterised by the clarity and imagination on policy which makes him such a valuable politician. He has shown a consistent resolution which inspires formidable loyalty, but also powerful antipathy. Some of his supporters voted for him to make an ideological point, not to endorse a leader. If he is to turn his admirable crusade into a winning campaign he will have to demonstrate an inclusiveness which has so far eluded him.

If Mr Redwood has cause for quiet satisfaction, Mr Hague can allow himself modest jubilation. It is a remarkable feat for a minister scarcely two years in the Cabinet to have leapfrogged his more experienced rivals and come within striking distance of the front-runner. Mr Hague deserves credit for the manner in which he has brought radical thinking to discussion of the party's organisation and honesty to the inquest into defeat. He has built a broad-based campaign team, but in its breadth lies his weakness. By attracting the support of MPs as various as Michael Ancram, the High Tory moderate, and Alan Duncan, the libertarian radical, he has only underlined how little his colleagues know of his private views. To have won them both, and 38 more, certainly proves that Mr Hague has charm. Many others, however, will need to know much more about his beliefs before they can full-heartedly endorse him.

AFRICAN ABYSS

Sierra Leone awaits outside intervention

It has been 17 days since an improbable assortment of rebels led by Major Johnny Koromah seized power in Sierra Leone. That country now faces the prospect of sliding back several centuries. As Anthony Loyd has reported so vividly in the last few days, coherent authority no longer exists. Anarchy is almost everywhere. Armed competing power centres, with little in common except the brutality with which they operate, are its only opponents. The tragedy of Somalia looks set to be repeated.

Sierra Leone has long been an unfortunate nation. Despite prospective mineral wealth it ranks as one of the poorest countries in Africa. Political stability has proved as impossible as economic prosperity. Coup has regularly followed coup. Rebellion has rarely abated. Instability has been the sole consistent factor.

It had been hoped that the relatively democratic elections of February 1996 that installed President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in office might provide some sort of fresh start for this troubled country. Even before the events of last month the optimism of such hopes had been exposed. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which has fought successive governments, had little respect for the ballot box. At least one attempted coup was forestalled last September. In November the Government and RUF signed a tentative agreement. A peace commission was appointed; demobilisation was supposed to occur and the RUF promised that it would transform itself into a political movement. At least three members of the peace commission then "disappeared", presumed dead, and the putative peace died well before Mr Koromah intervened and President Kabbah fled.

The outside world had hoped that Nigeria would deploy its troops and enforce some sort of order. That possibility involved all sorts of irony in itself. The notion of General Sani Abacha upholding democracy and the rule of law invited ridicule. Nigeria, however, remained the only nation with substantial forces in Freetown. It appeared capable of imposing the settlement which the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity, and the Commonwealth had all rightly called for but could not or would not deliver.

The unlikely cavalry from Lagos has taken its time coming. An invasion is rumoured on an almost hourly basis but has not materialised. The rebel commanders who had appeared on the verge of abandoning the capital have now grown in confidence. Their swagger may soon prove misplaced. Nigeria has reinforced its army. But General Abacha might have reason to find instability in Sierra Leone more attractive than military involvement. He has long been willing to exploit factional turmoil in Freetown. Alternatively, he may realise that his forces have little enthusiasm for what might become a bloody fight.

Sierra Leone's friends now wait nervously for Nigeria. Neither the other West African countries nor the Organisation of African Unity seem capable of decisive action. Intervention from outside the continent is highly improbable. Africa is gradually polarising between nations such as Uganda that have embraced economic and political modernisation and those "failed states" such as Liberia where even the most basic aspects of modernity have been abandoned. Sadly, unless democracy is first restored and then entrenched, Sierra Leone is set to slip into the second category.

FLYING FEATHERS

Logos — like planes — need constant refurbishment

British Airways will no longer fly the flag. Since it took off, BA has decorated the tail planes of its aircraft with a patriotic national logo. Now only the airline's seven Concorde will still carry a (new) Union Jack design on their tails. The rest of the fleet will change liveries to become the airline that portrays the painting. Over the next three years BA's 308 planes will be repainted with "world images". And the rest of its equipment, from baggage tags to napkins, will be changed to new designs at the cost of £60 million.

The official explanation for the change — put out with craft and skill by the jet doctors — is that airlines that used to be chauvinist must now be cosmopolitan. BA wants to suggest a modern rather than an imperial Britain. Sixty per cent of BA's passengers now come from outside Britain. So in order to flaunt the fact that this is a British airline that flies the whole world, its livery will show not just tartan, Welsh and English symbols, but contemporary art from Egypt, Japan, Holland and the Kalahari desert.

Such changes can be tricky. BA's launch of its new logo coincides with the start of trade union ballots on a possible strike. For a big company to change its image is often unpopular — both with staff and regular customers. Pepsi Cola's shift to blue won

wide publicity but has since floated off into the wide blue yonder. Critics wait to pounce. So why drop the Union Jack, one of the most familiar designs in imagery, from official pageantry to unofficial trinkets? Change is the mantra. People who do not now fly British Airways may be encouraged to do so. Even the finest trade symbol grows stale, and to change it need be no more alarming than for an individual to change a frock or a tie. The vast amount of free publicity is welcome. The varying livery of aircraft appeals to the collecting and classificatory plane-spotting instincts. But, if the product is itself improved, there can be real point to the change.

The important news about BA is that it has become a better airline, more reliable and responsive to the needs and comfort of its passengers than it used to be. Its corporate logos by themselves are merely fine feathers on big machines flying upon the wings of the wind. But marketing devices and identity symbols mean big business if the product has the novelty of the logo. If the new designs prove unpopular, the marketing men will change them. Even if they are brilliant, they will still be changed in due course. Logos need constant refurbishment — like planes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Conduct guide for devolution votes

From the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Conduct of Referendums

Sir, In the recent House of Commons discussions of the Referendum (Scotland and Wales) Bill (reports, June 4, 5; letters, June 6) the main opposition was directed against the Government's decision to hold a consultative referendum before Parliament had been able to scrutinise, debate, and as necessary amend the devolution legislation. Little attention was paid to important aspects of the conduct of the two referendums.

It was the likely prospect of Scottish, Welsh and other referendums which led to the setting up in 1996 of the Commission on the Conduct of Referendums — an independent body which included representatives of the three main political parties.

The commission reviewed the experience of previous referendums and published a report last year (details, November 22) setting out guidelines designed to ensure that future referendums were conducted efficiently, fairly and consistently.

All the guidelines are relevant to the Scottish and Welsh referendums; but of particular importance, in the light of the House of Commons debate, are those relating to public information and access to the broadcast media. The commission recommended that: Every household should receive a publicly funded leaflet giving general information on the holding of the referendum and statements of the "yes" and "no" cases relating to the referendum question; and that

Broadcasters should be encouraged to provide a limited amount of airtime for setting out the arguments for each option in the referendum (with a balance... maintained between the "yes" and "no" viewpoints rather than between the different political parties).

These arrangements will be particularly important in the conduct of a pre-legislative referendum. They would be complementary to the Government White Paper, which is expected to contain detailed proposals relating to devolution to Scotland and Wales. They would help to produce a high voting turnout — essential to the validity of a simple majority.

They would effectively contribute to the full understanding of the referendum questions needed by voters for "an all-Scotland debate on issues of real importance" and "a similar debate" in Wales, to which the Secretary of State for Scotland referred in concluding his introductory speech in the second-reading debate.

We hope that the House of Lords, when it shortly debates the Referendum Bill (provisionally planned for June 17), and subsequently the Government, will give careful consideration to arrangements for the conduct of the referendums on which will depend public acceptance of the legitimacy of their results.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK NAIRNE,
Chairman,
DAVID BUTLER,
Vice-Chairman,
Commission on the
Conduct of Referendums,
c/o Yew Tree, Chilton,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,
June 9.

Royal Opera House

From Lord Chadlington, Chairman of the Royal Opera House

Sir, Contrary to your Diary report (June 7), I receive no payment from the Royal Opera House either as chairman or any other role I undertake. Indeed the constitution of the ROH precludes remuneration for any member of the board or other governing body. To my knowledge there has been only one exception to this: namely when an existing director, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, was also appointed general director.

The Royal Opera House relies on the freely given support of more than fifty individuals who sit on its various boards and advisory committees. Their dedication and hard work reflects their commitment to the Royal Opera House in particular and to the Arts in general.

Yours sincerely,
CHADLINGTON, Chairman,
Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden, WC2,
June 9.

Policies, not cocktails

From Miss Laura Sandys

Sir, If I was a Conservative MP voting for a new leader, I would be unconvinced by the ability of any of the candidates to change the party.

If the candidates cannot recognise that holding cocktail parties (reports, June 10) as a method of securing votes reaffirms to the public that the party is out of touch and unable to innovate or provide a strong set of ethical values, they will not be able to bring the Tories back into the real world.

Any self-respecting Tory MP would have cut the cocktails and examined the policies.

Yours faithfully,
LAURA SANDYS,
93a Charlwood Street, SW1,
June 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Labour plans for British industry

From Mr Michael Clark

Sir, I couldn't help a wry smile at the news (Business, June 5) that the DTI is determined to seek ways and means of improving the competitiveness of British industry by dint of collaborative meetings between firms, the trade unions and the Department. "Here we go again," said I.

As the chairman of one of the late, ill-fated "little Neddies", during Labour's last time round, I put together a committee of the most imaginative and dynamic members of the electronics industry, coupled with the splendid and unwavering Frank Chapple (of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union). We laboured hard and long — eventually coming up with a short list of practical recommendations designed to improve our efficiency and worldwide competitiveness.

I remain convinced that these recommendations would have stood the test of time; but they were never implemented, for the simple reason that they cut the ground from under the feet of the permanent officials. They were eventually scuppered by the Treasury and the DTI itself.

The point of this letter is simply to warn the admirable Mr Beckett that she would be well advised to think through the implementation stage now. Otherwise the work she is initiating, with all its exciting potential, will be totally wasted — simply because nothing whatsoever will actually happen.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL CLARK,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Plessey, 1970-87,
Chairman, Electronics Economic Development Council, 1975-80,
Estate Office,
Braxted Park, Witham, Essex,
June 5.

From Mr Alan K. McHugh

Sir, Like Sir John Hoskyns (letter, June 6), I believe that the arguments for a minimum wage are being clouded by scaremongering based on the concept of "naturally occurring economic outcomes" and the supposed knock-on effect of wage rises.

Airport expansion

From Mr Matt Benson and others

Sir, Having been underground for ten days now, trying to halt the construction of Manchester Airport's second runway from 50 feet below the surface in our tunnel, the "Cokehole" at Bollin, Cheshire, we would like to ask our new Government to respond positively to our campaign to highlight the damaging local and global environmental impacts of continual airport expansion and growth by concerted action on the following fronts:

1. Impose a tax on aviation fuel, VAT on tickets and the abolition of duty free sales (thus including the full environmental costs of air travel in ticket prices).
2. Stop the second runway at Manchester Airport and Terminal 5 at Heathrow.
3. Stop internal and short European flights which could be made by more environmentally friendly transport.

Road use

From Professor P. W. Bonsall and Mr Ian Palmer

Sir, John Blundell (letter, June 2) wrongly assumes that Anjana Ahuja's article "Drivers' love of danger money" (Mind and Matter, May 26) reflected the views of the authors of the research upon which it drew.

We had of course expected that asking drivers to pay for their use of roads would encourage them to reduce that use — indeed such an outcome would be a prime aim of such a policy.

Our experiment, based on a driving simulator, was designed to discover the extent to which one particular form of road-user charging (based upon the length of time spent on the roads) would engender dangerous driving. Our conclusion was that there was sufficient evidence of increased risk-taking to make it

unethical to proceed with road trials of that system, even though it had been under serious consideration for implementation in Cambridge and elsewhere.

As General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Mr Blundell will be reassured to learn that our belief of the benefits of road-user charging is not undermined by this result. Even as non-economists, we share some of his optimism that efficiency gains might be achieved by increasing road-user costs, but we suggest that these might be better achieved by tolls, distance-based charges or even increased petrol tax than by time-based charges.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BONSALE,
IAN PALMER,
University of Leeds,
Institute for Transport Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT,
June 4.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MCHUGH (Proprietor),
The Leopard Hotel,
1 West Street,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire,
June 6.

From Professor R. G. L. von Zugbach

Sir, The Prime Minister is right to resist the European Union's attempts to foist works councils upon British industry (report, June 5). Any manager who has worked in Europe will tell him how the waste of managerial time in dealing with bureaucratised employee interference in decision-making saps managerial vitality, creativity and energy.

Continental managers would gladly be short of the system, which has its roots in long-redundant corporatist notions that have never been part of British culture. They would, however, gladly see it imposed upon British industry so that we too are equally handicapped.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
REGINALD VON ZUGBACH,
The University of Paisley,
Department of Management
and Marketing,
Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 2BE,
June 5.

4. Control the expansion of air transport, which is estimated to contribute up to 30 per cent of total global-warming effects.

5. Stop misleading job claims by airports and their supporters. It is impossible, for instance, for Manchester Airport to justify its claims that building a second runway will create 50,000 jobs in the North West.

Will our new Government have the courage to stand up to short-term vested interests and declare a moratorium on airport development until a sustainable and integrated national aviation policy is formulated? We look forward to a reply, care of the Under-Sheriff of Cheshire.

Yours sincerely,
MATT BENSON,
DENISE BISHOP,
MUPPET DAVE HOWARTH,
Cokehole Tunnel,
c/o Manchester Friends of the Earth,
6 Mount Street, Manchester,
June 8.

unethical to proceed with road trials of that system, even though it had been under serious consideration for implementation in Cambridge and elsewhere.

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Yours faithfully,
PETER BONSALE,
IAN PALMER,
University of Leeds,
Institute for Transport Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT,
June 4.

Filling the gap

From Dr Simon Cockedge

Sir, The gap year between school and university (article, Weekend, June 7) is actually a gap of 15 months (eg. July 1997 to September 1998).

I was encouraged to split mine into three, doing voluntary work for the first third, then working to finance travelling for the last third. I did exactly that, starting as a community-service volunteer with the homeless in Glasgow, then working in a foundry and a factory before travelling round the world. I have no doubt that I am a better general practitioner for having had that combination of experiences.

There would be numerous benefits to individuals, to voluntary organisations and those they serve, and to the wider community if universities and employers encouraged such tripartite gap "years" to become the rule rather than the exception.

Yours faithfully,
S. H. COCKEDGE,
Thornbrook Surgery,
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
High Peak, Derbyshire,
June 7.

Probation to deal with stalkers

From Mr Phil Gould

Sir, It is clear from her comments after the court case that Jacqueline Gold, the sex shop millionaire stalked for three months by an obsessed admirer (report, June 4), would have preferred that the perpetrator receive a prison sentence rather than the combined order of community service and two years' probation.

She should feel reassured that the magistrates concerned were acting in her best interests. A prison sentence would have been a punishment, but not a deterrent: prison rarely has that effect on obsessives. Indeed, they have every opportunity in prison to brood and fantasise. Returning to the community, with nothing achieved and probably without supervision, the offender might well take up his old activities. A probation order, on the other hand, is a sentence in its own right: it is not a slapped wrist and "don't do it again".

With offenders in this category, probation officers work to cut away self-justification, make them take real responsibility for their behaviour and its consequences for victims, and learn to deal with their obsessional tendencies. Such work is rarely done in prison these days and research shows us that, in any case, such programmes have better results when undertaken in the community rather than the unreal world of prison.

There is no doubt that Ms Gold has suffered. Imprisonment of the perpetrator would not prevent this happening again. Rather the opposite.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL GOULD
(Assistant Chief Probation Officer),
Essex Probation Service,
49 Braintree Road, Witham, Essex.

From Detective Inspector Hamish Brown

Sir, Your report of June 4 included a quote by Jacqueline Gold: "I have been very fortunate because of my business profile in that I have had unsolicited support from Scotland Yard. How many thousands of women and men over the years have suffered from this life-changing situation and do not feel safe enough to come forward?"

I was recently the officer in charge of a case in which a man pleaded guilty to offences of grievous bodily harm and actual bodily harm. The offences amounted to "stalking" by means of anonymous letters.

The victims were two 18-year-old girls who worked at a hamburger restaurant and were subjected to a series of very unpleasant and frightening letters. The police investigation involved hard work over many months and did not relent until the suspect was caught. The social status of the two girls was never an issue as to whether the case should be pursued thoroughly or not.

The public must be assured that all such cases are taken seriously by the police, and that people from all walks of life should have the confidence to report such matters.

Yours faithfully,
HAMISH BROWN,
Staines Police Station,
2 London Road, Staines, Middlesex,
June 6.

Caught all ways

From Mr Frederick Hill

Sir, The Reverend Canon Dr John Elford (letter, May 31) asks if he is alone in still waiting for the new Government to do something he disapproves of.

I can offer him a small crumb of comfort in that I am still waiting to be able to say to my fellow moaners at the bar, for the first time in 18 years: "Well, you put them in, didn't you?"

Yours sincerely,
FREDERICK HILL,
23 Hill Court, Putney Hill, SW15,
June 9.

Unfair to rooks

From Mr D. V. Q. Henriques

Sir, The meteorologist who has assessed the reliability of old adages about the weather (report, May 31) has been unfair to rooks.

I have always understood that these sage birds build high in the expectation not of a good summer, but more logically of a wet summer. In case there was so much rain that floods occurred (some hope), the nests would be safely out of reach.

This simple but radical change might well improve considerably amateur forecasting involving rooks from the dismal 16 per cent reported.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HENRIQUES,
Oat Furlong, Winsor,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
June 2.

Not at all worried

From Mr James Bennett

Sir, Dr John Edmunds (letter, June 10) is wrong in his assertion that "mad sheep" learns prompt slaughter "would be a normal reaction."

A mad sheep would not be in the least concerned.

Yours faithfully,
J. BENNETT,
14 Polworth Road, SW16,
June 10.

ROBERT SERBER

In March 1943 Serber and his wife Charlotte, who had been appointed librarian at



Serber's job at the laboratory was to head the bomb-design theory group. During his first lecture, the sound of carpenters hammering away in the room above nearly drowned his words, and at one point a leg appeared through a

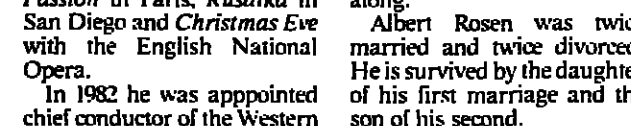
He planned to fly on the Nagasaki mission on August 8, in which a plutonium device was dropped, but a final check showed that he had no parachute, and he was dropped at

Although angry enough to refuse to serve on a panel put together by Teller to advise the Pentagon about the "super" —

Serber's first wife Charlotte, the only woman head of a division at Los Alamos during the war, died in 1967. He married again in 1979 and is survived by his second wife Fiona and two sons.

ALBERT ROSEN

He returned many times to the annual Wexford Festival conducting 18 operas there in all, more than any other



ANTHONY CLARK

WITH the death of Tony Clark, Britain has lost one of the pioneers in the application of geoprospection in archaeo-

logy — and one of its friendliest archaeologists. Formerly employed in the laboratories of the instrument section of the Distillers Company, Clark joined the Ancient Monuments Laboratory of the Department of the Environment (now English Heritage) in 1967 and so became the first

full-time professional archaeological geophysicist in Britain. However, his interest in geophysics, beginning with the resistivity method, went back even earlier. Learning of the work of Professor Richard Atkinson, who applied a megger earth tester in the task of surveying archaeological

remains at Dorchester-on-Thames, he decided to use advances in electronics, notably the development of transistors, to produce a system that was more compact, lower in power consumption, and quicker to use.

he invented in 1956 in collaboration with a colleague, John Martin. Soon he had opportunities to test the new equipment when, in 1957, he conducted a resistivity survey of the then recently discovered Roman town of Cunetio in Wiltshire, and found he was readily able to detect the

He did not, however, restrict himself entirely to geoprospection, for he was also interested in dating methods. He was particularly concerned with magnetic dating, whereby iron oxides present in clay become demagnetised when heated in the Earth's magnetic field and remagnetised on cooling. Thus the direction of the Earth's field at the time of heating (of pottery kiln or hearth) can be determined. Clark's contribution to this method came from his construction of the British calibration curve essential in the conversion of magnetic readings into corresponding years.

This work was undertaken from 1974 onwards in collaboration with Professor Don Tatnell and Dr Mark Noel (both then at Newcastle University). Subsequently, after his retirement from the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, he became a private consultant and set up an archaeo-magnetising facility at Guildford. His book *Seeing Beneath the Soil* (1990) deals with prospecting methods in archaeology and has become the standard university textbook on the subject. He was a visiting fellow at the University of Surrey.

Despite all his professional eminence, Clark was never entirely at home in the world of officialdom. He always maintained the slightly subversive air of the true inventor, and was at his happiest and most fulfilled when working with local societies and amateur archaeologists.

He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1961, and served on its council and that of the Royal Archaeological Institute, as well as playing an active role in the Surrey Archaeological Society. His wife Una predeceased him but he is survived by their two sons.

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Horizons shrink at Bush House as staff are redeployed

Why the BBC wants the best of both worlds

Like a listed building which developers are not allowed to tear down, the BBC World Service is being dismantled from within. The facade and some rooms at the back remain, but the heart of the place has been torn out and replaced with cubicles, electronic cables and strip lighting.

Remember the uproar a year ago when the BBC announced that it was going to put the World Service under the arm of its corporate directorate, BBC Worldwide, and reassign the making of the World Service's English-language radio programmes to another central directorate, BBC Production?

Save the BBC World Service campaigns sprang up swiftly. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office set up a working group to ensure that no damage was being done to what has traditionally been a separate and admired institution within the BBC, paid for by direct grant out of tax funds, not by licence fees.

This working group, after hearing from the BBC's chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, and its Director-General, John Birt, accepted that the merging of functions was necessary for efficiency but that the World Service's independence would survive. The group did extract one concession. To preserve the cross-fertilisation of ideas and outlook enjoyed by the World Service's newsroom, English-language and foreign-language journalists would continue to work side by side.

But what about the rest? When the working group reconvenes this October, it will find that the World Service as a coherent programme-producing service has been broken up. For example, its science programmes are now made under the eye of the BBC Science Unit and arts programmes by BBC Arts. Last week, the World Service's drama department moved out of Bush House. World Service staff believe that rather than being considered expert in preparing programmes for a worldwide audience whose first language is mostly not English, they are now considered as "human resources" to be redeployed throughout the BBC. The numbers listed as working for the World Service have been reduced from 2,532 to 1,636.

Bringing producers of certain programme subjects together sounds efficient unless you consider that the two faces of the BBC are broadcasting to two antithetical audiences, paid for in different ways. The BBC insists that the two sources of funding will not be confused. Maybe clever accountants and computers can calculate fractions of salaries for allocation to different BBC budgets. But

this service will not come cheap. Nor will the extra engineering necessary to link Broadcasting and Bush houses.

At Bush House, morale has never been so low. Many World Service staff have no idea what their future is. They take little heart from the supposed wider horizons in the BBC because World Service employees, news apart, have not been getting the top jobs when genres merge.

Bitterness emerged this spring when the Director-General insisted that the World Service bear its share of the 5 per cent "efficiency savings" being imposed on the rest of the BBC. World Service staff thought their Foreign Office money was ring-fenced, especially because in November, after draconian cuts because of reduced funding in recent years, the Foreign Office rewarded them by restoring £5 million to their grant (of £152.4 million) for 1997-98. Then BBC domestic hacked some back for itself. If the World Service's remaining staff had any faith left in their managing director, Sam Younger, whom many felt should have resigned last year when the restructuring was imposed without him even being consulted, it is disappearing fast.

The corporate BBC's motive for tucking the respected World Service within the larger BBC is not hard to find. The last Government put the BBC under great pressure to turn itself into a global media giant. How much more global an enterprise the BBC looks if it can boast that its customers are not just the 22 million British households who finance it through licence fees but the 13 million worldwide who listen to the BBC's foreign broadcasts.

Tony Hall, the chairman of BBC News, can now boast that he heads the largest news-gathering organisation in the world, formed "to provide its news to the UK and to the world".

But the listener in Lesotho is not the same as the viewer in Leeds. The danger to them both is the same homogenisation. Efficiency will dictate that the BBC's international programmes will be made in re-usable bits, eliminating the sharp details that point a story either at a domestic or a foreign audience. One sign of this is that John Simpson, the BBC's foreign affairs editor, is to be rechristened world editor.

It is too late for the new Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, to put the World Service back together again. But he can ask by what mechanism — and at what cost — the BBC is keeping its licence-fee activities separate from those paid for by the Foreign Office grant, and how it is respecting the distinct audiences that these two sources represent.



BRENDA MADDOX

Where are sport's new poets?

Test Match Special is 40 years old. Peter Foster asks whether sports broadcasting is what it used to be

In the 50 or so years since broadcasters began televising sport events a few men have become known as "The Voice of their sport". Every village cricketer will have borrowed John Arlott's buttery Hampshire burr to describe the winning six he snote into the duck pond, every boy-racer that ever put his foot to the floor will have the high-octane wail of Murray Walker screaming in his ears and golfers will replay their rounds, this chip, that missed putt, in the whimsical style of Peter Alliss. In their own way, these men (and we include Dan Maskell, Brian Johnston and Peter O'Sullivan) deserve to be remembered as poets of their time.

Sport needs its poets. For most people today, true drama is experienced not at Stratford or the Barbican but at Wembley or Lord's. The faces of Middlesbrough supporters at the Cup Final this year were drained by the tragic fortunes of their team. Sport is one of the few areas where we still suspend our disbelief and empathise wholeheartedly with players acting out the drama. Step back for a moment and the illusion is shattered; the ridiculousness of grown men chasing after a round object becomes plain.

Commentators are part of the illusion. Their art is to articulate, often with few words, the drama before them. But the great names mentioned here were masters of an art that is in grave danger of being forgotten. In the past ten years televised sport has undergone great change as technology has raised the expectations of viewers. More and more former players who expressed themselves so gracefully with bat or ball are taking over at the microphone and failing to reproduce the immaculate timing, sense of occasion and rapport with spectators that came to them instinctively as players.

Ian Botham, Bob Willis, Gary Lineker, Virginia Wade and Sue Barker are just some of the sporting achievers whose broadcasting skills are probably not matched by their celebrity status. The monotony of their voices and the often inane nature of their speculations do not make them ideal viewing companions. Perhaps we should not be surprised: there is no logical reason sportsman who have spent most of their adult lives perfecting a small number of physical actions should make good broadcasters, able



Gower, left. Boycott and Benaud: players who took up the broadcasting microphone — with mixed success

to evoke the drama of sport at the highest level. The professional sportsman or woman who has played in unpleen Open Championships or Cup Finals can sometimes find it hard to appreciate and articulate the absurd reverence with which we amateurs approach such occasions.

Technology has had its part to play in the changing face of sports broadcasting. Miniature cameras inserted in everything from cricket stumps to a driver's wing mirror bring the viewer ever closer to the action, allowing sporting performances to be analysed in more and more detail. Alan Hansen picks open Middlesbrough's defensive frailties, Geoffrey Boycott isolates the tiniest flaws in a batsman's technique and the Tiger Woods swing is analysed in super slo-mo.

Only the most hard-bitten Luddite would argue that these innovations have not contributed something to sports coverage but in themselves they are not enough to convey to TV viewers the atmosphere of a great sporting occasion. BSkyB has revolutionised sports coverage through technical innovation, but its coverage of last month's one-day cricket interna-

tional showed that magnificent footage is not enough. No amount of award-winning camera angle can add life to the insipid drone of Willis and Botham.

Teamwork between a professional broadcaster and a former player often produces better results. Murray Walker and Martin Brundle, David Coleman and Brendan Foster, John Morrison and Trevor Brook, Brian Johnston and Trevor Bailey are among the pairings that have worked brilliantly over the years. When Michael Schumacher spins off on the last lap of a Grand Prix, Murray Walker's electrifying cry of "Schumacher! Out, out, OUT!" captures the drama of the moment. Only when the smouldering tyres are stationary in the gravel trap is it appropriate for Martin Brundle to opine on brake failures, tyre wear and race strategy. Similarly, when an innings became beleaguered on the third day of a Test match, it was Brian Johnston whose musings on a startled pigeon or the passing of the No 9 bus were a perfect foil for Bailey's dry but apposite analysis.

Former sportsmen do not always make poor broadcasters. Richie Benaud, possibly the finest cricket broadcaster alive today, captained Australia. He has succeeded in crossing the dividing line between pundit and commentator and is now often asked by young fans whether he ever played cricket. Benaud's success may have something to do with his training as a court reporter in Australia and on a BBC broadcasting course. And there are plenty of other sportsmen who have completed the transition from player to broadcaster: men such as Michael Holding, Ian Chappell, Dan Maskell, Tony Lewis and Peter Alliss. Of today's crop Mark Nicholas, a former Hampshire cricketer, is looking promising at Sky, while the jury is still out on the sometimes too-stilted David Gower.

Broadcasting companies are losing sight of the variety and freshness an outsider's voice brings. They should not be content to fill their commentary boxes with former players wanting a retirement job but must search further afield for those who can articulate what sport means to people. It is not just cricket fans who listen to Radio 4's *Test Match Special*, which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary, and it was not just football fans who sensed the national thrill of Euro '96. Sports broadcasting must look to bring on new broadcasting talent.

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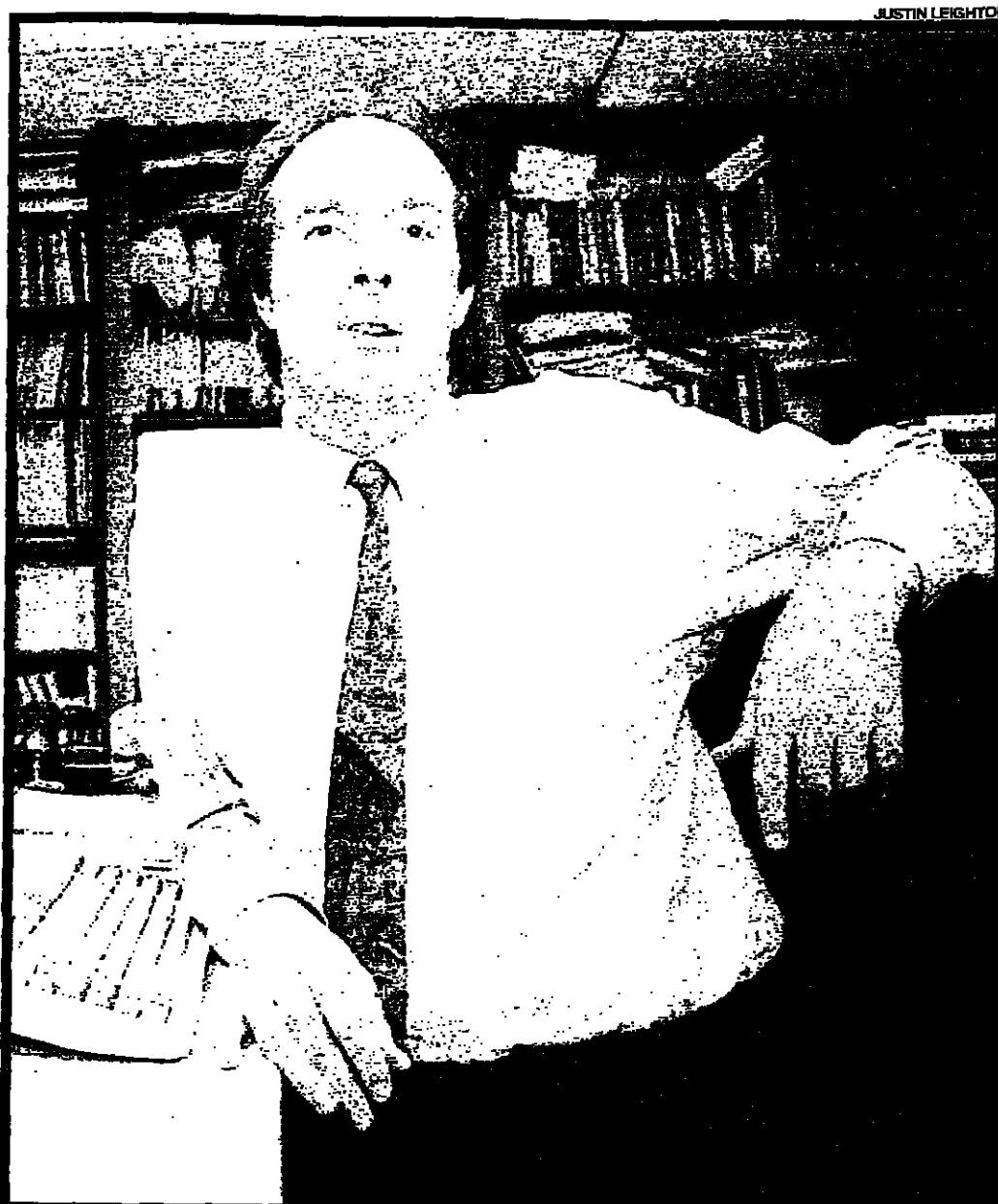
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Will Hutton, the Editor, says he is satisfied — but *The Observer*, despite its neo-brutalist front pages, "has appeared more like a house journal than a furnace of ideas"



Is The Observer in Blair's pocket?

The once forceful Sunday newspaper needs to calm down and remember its readers, says Magnus Linklater

It was one of those front-page ideas that seem inspired at the time, but turn out to be less convincing in print. *The Observer* led its front page on Sunday with a bunch of pictures headlined, "Suddenly We're a Nation of Winners. Howzat?" Triumphs in cricket, rugby and horse-racing, as well as the Spice Girls and Tony Blair, meant that Britain was "high on natural Prozac..."

Leaving aside the tabloid presentation, it was an idea that should have been spiked before it saw the light of day. The real news on Sunday was that the Test match was on a knife-edge, the British Lions had been beaten in South Africa, and the Derby favourite had flopped — all stories duly headlined in the sports section. As for the Spice Girls and Blair, well, they are always with us.

It's unfair to pick on one issue to criticise a newspaper — like damning a biography because it has got one date wrong. But there is a crisis of sorts at *The Observer*, and that front page is as good an illustration of it as anything. It's a crisis of editorial direction, news content and presentation. To say nothing of financial losses. Apart from that, as the doctor said, everything seems fine. Its Editor, Will Hutton, proclaims himself satisfied with progress; its new chairman, Robert Gavrion, has brought business rigour to bear; last month's circulation results show a 5.9 per cent increase over April's, and a stable year-on-year figure.

Behind the statistics, however, things are less happy. Sales are still well below 500,000, once considered a rock-bottom figure for a paper that used to chase *The Sunday Times*. It has lost ground to *The Sunday Telegraph*, and is competing for survival with the *Independent on Sunday*. Its losses are more than £9 million, and its relationship with its sister paper, *The Guardian*, remains uneasy, not to say fraught. What was once seen as a marriage made in heaven between two liberal papers has gone through some rocky patches, with constant squabbles over the housekeeping money.

The Guardian feels held back by its loss-making partner. *The Observer* resents the daily paper's interference, but realises that it could never survive without it. The nagging question of whether it should merge with the *Independent on Sunday* refuses to go away. As an old *Observer* hand, I have to admit that there is a certain familiarity about these complaints. Ritual comparisons with the golden era of David Astor were made then, and are still being made by people who cannot for the life of them remember what the Astor paper was really like, and have conveniently forgotten the losses which forced its sale in the first place.

The Scott Trust, which owns both papers, believes the worst is over. With profits of the order of £25 million, even after *The Observer's* losses are taken into account, it believes the pressure is off. Rumours of a possible sale are dismissed as "totally untrue". The trust remains committed to the paper, and points out that *The Guardian* itself is profitable. Some of its members, however, are less sanguine. The group depends on healthy results from the *Manchester Evening News* and its sister papers, the magazine *Autotrade* and the local Surrey papers, which have in the past been profitable. The worry is that these are diminishing assets in the long run and some members of the trust question whether *The Guardian*, which is hungry for investment,

can expand while *The Observer* is draining the profits.

A strong *Guardian* faction still believes the acquisition of *The Observer* was a mistake and would welcome the chance of getting rid of it. For the time being their voice has been silenced, but they have not changed their views.

The issue right now, however, is of a different order. *The Observer* has reinvented itself as "The paper for the new era", with a new masthead and design, and a new set of priorities — not just in tune with new Labour, but actually speaking its lines. The intention is that it should be on the inside track of the Blair revolution, breaking the news that other Sundays cannot reach, keeping its readers one step ahead as the Government's radical agenda unfolds.

More than that, it sees itself as the mentor of this new party of ideas. That pre-election picture of Hutton, following Blair into his Islington house, said it all: here was the master, it implied, and here was the voice — which was not made clear. Hutton, perhaps, was to be Ben Bradlee to Blair's JFK, a friend at court, but more than that, his ideologue. His bestseller, *The State We're In*, would be the blueprint for the new Britain.

Things haven't quite worked out that way. The truth is that this

Government, like all others, has acquired a momentum of its own, and *The Observer*, far from finding itself at the leading edge, has been left bubbling in its wake. Ever since the heady aftermath of the election (and I thought its May 4 headline "Goodbye, xenophobia" was truly memorable), it has appeared more like a house journal than a furnace of ideas.

The other day it listed six exclusives, of which the most exciting was that the Home Office was to introduce mandatory drug testing. Last Sunday's front page revealed that David Blunkett was going to spend an hour a day reading, and an hour a day doing sums. The Prime Minister would be taking part in televised question-and-answer sessions with the public. Inside was news of a plan to reduce toxic emissions. On the leader pages, the main ground-breaking idea from Hutton was that environmental issues were moving back to the top of the "post-ideological" agenda, but if green solutions were to be found, the markets would have to be curbed. Recent leaders have talked of the need to combine a sense of social conscience with the demands of the market, and concluded that if all this can be done "we could be in for a very successful Labour Government".

Meanwhile, the Government has picked up another script. Blair is in Europe delivering a speech that

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Knickers in twist over bra

KNICKERS are getting into a terrible twist over in adland, where luvvies are squabbling over who should claim credit for the Wonderbra campaign. There is much pouting and sulking over the general assumption that the creative genius in question is Trevor Beattie, formerly of TBWA and virtually the only adman with his own personal PR. Most peeved appears to be Sam Hurford of Young & Rubicam, who complains in *Campaign* that it was he and Murray Partridge who first devised the campaign at TBWA. "Trevor Beattie wasn't in the room," he moans. "In fact, he wasn't even in the country."

Meanwhile, Nigel Rose, considered by many to be the real brain behind Hello Boys!, appears to be having the last laugh. Playtex, which makes Wonderbra, has moved its entire account to Euro R.S.C.G. Wnek Gosper, where Rose now works. Stand by for another storm in a D-cup.

Good spot

A DINKY plan by Richard Branson to copy artwork from the anti-hero film *Trainspotting* to promote his new train service ran into problems. When lawyers discovered the style of

of copyright, which it wasn't — it was more a parody. Anyway there has now been a very amicable solution. We have donated £10,000 to the Carlton Athletic charity."

Lion's share

A RIPLE of excitement fluttered around the table of 12 Fleet Street hacks invited to Cape Town last week for the opening of the Table Bay Hotel by Nelson Mandela.



Mandela: invitation

After a many bottle lunch, the emotional group were asked whether they would now like to see the lions. Imagining themselves on a leisurely safari in the African sunshine they readily accepted. Later that afternoon they found themselves among 30,000 screaming Afrikaners watching the Lions play rugby against Western Cape Province.

It could be who?

WHEN not busy counting their money, Camelot directors have set about discovering the identity of the mole who leaked details of their monster pay rises to *Marketing* magazine. Staff are being grilled one by one by a security team who at least cannot be accused of not taking the job seriously. One is a former employee of Scotland Yard and other learnt his trade with the Midlands Crime Squad.

Take a memo

STAFF at Bush House, home of the BBC's grand old dame the World Service, have at last found a use for the avalanche of Birtian memos sent to them over the months. An outbreak of mice has caused much shrieking and chair jumping among more timid workers in the building. But the problem has been resolved. Foreign correspondents, accustomed to far more terrifying spectacles than a few fluffy rodents, have plugged the mouse holes with paper. John Birt's rather lengthy memos have proved a perfect fit.



Branson: dinky plan

the ad campaign — Branson holding a prisoner-type identification board over the word "Trainbooking" — they fired off a letter claiming that it infringed the copyright of the Channel 4/Polygram film. Branson has now made a donation to a Scottish drug rehab charity and the ad campaign will go ahead in July.

A spokesman for Branson said: "We got a rather nasty letter claiming infringement

'Perfect for the long, hot summer ahead' *Times*

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'taut, committed writing at its best' *Time Out*

'full of the scents and tastes of summer' *Sunday Telegraph*

'DEFINITELY A BOOK TO READ IN ONE ENTHRALLED SITTING' *Time*

'gorgeous prose'

Sunday Express

NEW FROM ORANGE PRIZE-WINNER HELEN DUNMORE

Talking to the Dead



Love of Fat Men



ALSO AVAILABLE: ZENNOR IN DARKNESS. BURNING BRIGHT, A SPELL OF WINTER

Labour win boosts broadsheet sales

WITH THE exception of *The Daily Telegraph*, sales of all daily and Sunday broadsheets increased last month after the election of the Labour Government. The Blair effect was remarkable, particularly for the papers that devoted most space to the daily string of announcements from Downing Street. April was different. As the election ground on, sales fell — by only 40,000 for the broadsheets, but altogether by 250,000. The exceptions were *The Sunday Telegraph* (boosted by a cheap subscription scheme), *The Observer* (supported by regional price-cutting), *The Mirror* (boosted by an air fares promotion) and the *Daily Mail*.

Once Blair was elected, sales lifted as readers started buying newspapers to learn about the new Government, with *The Times* recording the highest increase of 37,200. The two broadsheets most sympathetic to Labour also recorded significant rises, with *The Guardian* up by 28,500 (7 per cent) and *The Independent* by 13,000 (5 per cent). Among the broadsheets only *The Daily Telegraph*, the paper least sympathetic to Blair, lost sales over April.

The same trend occurred on Sundays with *The Observer* up nearly 27,000 and *The Sunday Times* 21,400. Overall sales of broadsheets were up in April by almost 90,000 daily, and 52,000 on Sunday. The same trend is showing



PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur

over the longer term. Year-on-year in May the mass-market tabloids were down by 290,000 and the Sundays by 480,000. Against that, sales of the five daily broadsheets were up by 206,500 and the four Sundays by 306,400.

The totals are inflated by a 36 per cent sales increase for *The Sunday Telegraph* and an 8 per cent increase of

£5,000 for *The Daily Telegraph*. For the weekday paper, year on year sales have been boosted by more than 90,000 by a cheap subscription offer and bulk sales (where the paper is given away) of 40,000. Sales at the full cover price are 1,001,363. On Sunday sales were boosted by 94,000 from the subscription offer and 31,800

from bulk sales. Sales at the full price were 784,000.

Both the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday* maintain their success and there are signs that *The Express* may at last have bottomed out on weekdays, although the Sunday edition continues to slide. Among the broadsheets only *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* are down year on year.

The star performers over the past year are *The Times* (up 11.8 per cent), *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Guardian*, with *The Sunday Times* steaming serenely along at more than 1.3 million — up by 57,000 on a year ago.

BATTLE FOR SALES: MAY 1997

DAILIES	Av daily sale	Compared to Apr 97	%	Compared to May 96	%
Sun	3,819,808	-22,488	-0.58	-189,115	-4.72
Mirror	2,281,383	-28,825	-1.21	-92,544	-3.77
Express	1,220,439	+384	+0.03	-9,240	-0.76
Mail	2,153,868	+2,681	+0.12	+83,880	+3.06
Star	654,658	+6,843	+1.06	-26,698	-3.78
Times	756,536	+37,227	+5.18	+80,113	+11.64
Telegraph	1,132,789	-1,142	-0.10	+85,137	+8.13
Observer	429,101	+28,504	+7.14	+39,655	+8.51
Guardian	283,707	+13,156	+5.25	-9,529	-3.49
Independent	319,400	+12,071	+3.53	+17,134	+5.67
FT					
Total	13,802,767	+45,844	+0.33	-74,532	-0.54
SUNDAYS					
Now	4,429,387	+54,355	+1.47	-133,288	-2.92
People	1,908,363	-99,195	-5.50	-148,768	-7.23
Mirror	2,211,527	-26,030	-1.18	-198,598	-8.24
Express	1,153,573	-5,457	-0.47	-76,076	-6.11
Mail	2,129,378	+19,952	+0.93	+1,854	+0.09
Times	1,331,859	+21,419	+1.63	+57,015	+4.47
Telegraph	480,426	+28,909	+5.93	+26,041	+5.73
Observer	910,803	+1,391	+0.15	+243,832	+26.56
Independent	278,465	+2,789	+1.02	-20,462	-6.85
Total	15,121,891	+29,842	+0.20	-221,317	-1.44

Source: ABC



Readers were turned on by Tony Blair's election victory

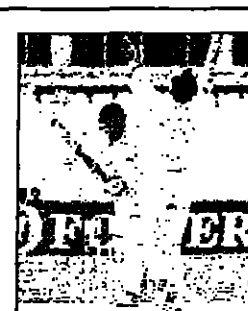
INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
Payback time
for corrupt
businessmen
PAGE 29



ARTS
Is it thank heaven
for Leslie Caron
as George Sand?
PAGES 33-35



SPORT
Surrey and Kent
unhindered on
run-in to Lord's
PAGES 42-48

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

PacifiCorp in £3.6bn Energy bid

By Jason Nisse and Oliver August

THE Energy Group, which owns Eastern Electricity and Peabody, the world's largest coal miner, is set to be taken over by PacifiCorp, the US group, in a £3.62 billion deal just three and a half months after being demerged from Hanson.

The takeover talks were revealed yesterday after Energy shares shot up 19½p to 580p in heavy trading, indicating that there had been a leak. After the market closed, Energy announced that it had received the approach, with PacifiCorp indicating it would pay a 20 per cent premium to Energy's closing price, or around £3.62 billion. The shares floated at 52½p in February.

The offer is only £1.1 billion

more than Hanson paid when it bought Eastern, the biggest of the regional electricity companies, in 1995. At that time, John Devaney, Eastern's chief executive, made around £1.3 million from his share options. Mr Devaney, who still runs the Rec, could pick up

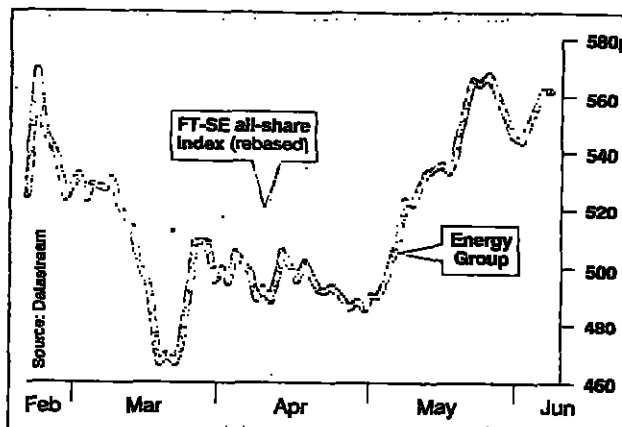
Commentary 27

another windfall from this deal, as the service contracts of Energy directors say they are entitled to two years' pay if they are dismissed within 12 months of a takeover.

Mr Devaney is paid £350,000 a year, Derek Bonham, Energy's executive chairman, receives £450,000

and Eric Anstee earns £250,000. Irl Engelhart, who runs Peabody, is paid \$550,000 a year and would receive 30-month's money if dismissed.

The bid indicates the sanguine view the US companies are taking on the possibility of a windfall tax on the profits of utilities. If the bid succeeds, Energy Group will join the group of seven other Recs now owned by US corporations, including East Midlands, owned by Dominion Resources, and London Electricity, which was bought by Energy. Yorkshire Electricity was the latest to be taken over when AE Power and PS Colorado made a joint £1.3 billion agreed bid in February. Energy would not comment



on the offer beyond its announcement but the indications are that Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, would be unlikely to raise any objections to an offer.

There had been suggestions that US shareholders might make legal objections to a windfall tax, but the PacifiCorp approach suggests the company has already taken this into account.

If PacifiCorp is successful, it will also have to deal with environmental and health claims made against Peabody in the US. This has led Energy to include £150 million of provisions in its balance sheet when it floated free of Hanson in February. Energy is also tied up in £2.3 billion of "take-or-pay" contracts to purchase gas from the North Sea.

PacifiCorp, based in Portland, Oregon, has been rumoured to be interested in UK electricity companies before but has had no previous approaches. It serves 13 million electricity customers in seven western US states through its subsidiaries, Pacific Power and Light and Utah Power and Light.

The company is aiming to become a global utility and has been exploring takeover

targets in Britain, Australia and India over the last two years. It has also considered a bid for Big Rivers Electric, a troubled utility in Kentucky.

Fred Buckman, PacifiCorp president and chief executive, recently said: "We believe these opportunities have the potential for superior returns to our shareholders and significant benefits to our customers in the US."

In November 1995, PacifiCorp agreed to buy Powercor, a utility in south-eastern Australia, for \$1.6 billion.

PacifiCorp has in the past co-operated with UK companies. Last August, a consortium led by National Power announced its plans to buy a coal-fired power station and a coal-products company for \$1.81 billion.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4738.6	(+52.9)
FTSE All share	3476	(+19.99)
Nikkei	20532.85	(+308.75)
Dow Jones	7548.32	(+87.82)
S&P Composite	857.04	(+4.15)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	87 1/2%	(97 1/2%)
Yield	6.92%	(6.92%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Little long call	113 1/2	(113 1/2)
Future (Sep)		
STERLING		
New York	1.6382	(1.6373)
London		
DM	2.8141	(2.7920)
FF	5.5202	(5.4359)
Sfr	2.3825	(2.3495)
Yen	184.71	(184.28)
Index	98.7	(99.0)
DOLLAR		
London	1.7185	(1.7070)
DM	5.8140	(5.7855)
FF	1.4433	(1.4375)
Yen	112.27	(112.95)
Index	102.1	(101.9)
Tokyo close Yen	112.96	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.95	(\$17.80)
GOLD		
London close	\$343.65	(\$344.05)
* denotes midday trading price		

Electricity pensioners lose case in High Court

By Sara McConnell and Anne Ashworth

NATIONAL GRID and National Power acted lawfully in using pension scheme surpluses totalling nearly £350 million to fund redundancies after the privatisation, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The judgment overturned an earlier decision by the Pensions Ombudsman that National Grid was wrong to use a £43 million surplus to pay for redundancies. Mr Justice Walker also upheld arguments by National Power that the utility had acted within the rules of its scheme when it used a £300 million surplus to meet its redundancy bill.

Pension scheme members at both companies plan to take their campaign to the Court of Appeal. Pensions lawyers predicted that the decision would reinforce the power of employers in battles with their employees and pensioners over who owns pension fund surpluses. Growing numbers of employers, including National Bus, National Freight Company and Unilever, are facing challenges over the ownership of large surpluses built up during the 1980s.

The pension schemes of privatised companies alone are estimated to contain some £85 billion of assets. The combined surplus on all the schemes could be £4 billion to £8 billion, according to the National Association of Pension Funds.

Mr Justice Walker ruled that

Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman, wrongly interpreted the rules of the National Grid scheme and the extent of the employer's duty to members when dealing with surpluses. A ruling in favour of scheme members could have cost the 21 privatised electricity companies £1 billion and benefited 200,000 former workers. All the schemes have the same rules.

David Laws, a former electrician with National Grid, said: "We will fight. Today's verdict cannot be justice." Mr Laws had argued that National Grid's use of surpluses to pay redundancy broke the rules of the scheme. He and his fellow scheme member Reginald Mayes are hoping to join with Howard Machin, representative of National Power pensioners.

Mr Justice Walker said the courts and the ombudsman were powerless under present law to overrule a decision by trustees and employers in accordance with scheme rules. But he concluded his judgment with a call for a debate on possible "more drastic legislative intervention" and said: "It is a matter of real concern that the destination of a surplus should depend as it often seems to depend on subtle and complex arguments about scheme documents."

Commentary, page 27



Donald Waters, chief executive of Grampian, left, and Gus Macdonald yesterday

Scottish Media seeks to loosen ties with ITV

By Eric Reguly

SCOTTISH MEDIA, the TV and newspaper group that is paying £105 million for Grampian Television, said yesterday it would attempt to loosen its ties with ITV as Scottish devolution gained momentum.

Andrew Flanagan, managing director, said Scottish Media's goal was to attain an affiliate status with ITV that would allow it to cherry pick the network programmes that would play best to Scottish audiences. It has made its intentions known to the Independent Television Commission and Carlton, Granada and United News & Media, the three largest ITV players.

Barry Cox, director of the ITV Association, said that the network was willing in principle to negotiate a new relationship. "I'm sure the ITV companies will treat their request sympathetically. But any changes would have to be approved by the Independent Television Commission."

Scottish Media's strategy emerged as it consolidated its position as the dominant commercial broadcaster in Scotland with an agreement to merge with Grampian, which is based in Aberdeen.

Scottish Media, chaired by Gus Macdonald, is offering 320p a share in cash or a combination of new shares and convertible unsecured loan notes of equivalent value. The offer represents a premium of 22 per cent to the Grampian share price on May 30, the day before the companies revealed their talks.

The merger is expected to create a small number of

redundancies. Analysts said combining operations would save about £2 million a year.

Mr Flanagan said some of the ITV network programmes made little sense in the context of devolution. Scottish Media also believes ITN's News at Ten is becoming less relevant to Scottish audiences and wants to develop an edition with more Scottish content. Scottish Media and Grampian intend to build a studio in Edinburgh to cover the Scottish Assembly.

Scottish Media spends about £31 million a year for ITV network programmes, while Grampian's budget is about £2 million. Mr Flanagan said that the group would like to reduce its spending on network programmes by about 30 per cent, with the savings going into regional programming.

Britain exports war on bribes

THE Government took its fight against corrupt exporters to the international stage yesterday (Oliver August writes). At a Council of Europe conference on corruption and organised crime in Prague, Joyce Quin, the Home Office Minister, gave details of a move to make it a criminal offence for UK companies to bribe foreign officials. She said: "The programme of action against corruption is an ambitious but necessary agenda."

Payback time, page 29

Queues rush to beat NU deadline

IN SCENES reminiscent of privatisations in the 1980s, the last-minute dash for extra shares in the Norwich Union flotation created queues in the City, as policyholders raced to beat the 2pm registration deadline (Caroline Merrell writes).

Lloyds Registrars, acting for the Norwich, said that people had come from all over the country to get their applications in on time. More than a 1,000 people delivered their forms by hand to Lloyds Registrars' City office.

The high level of public interest in the £6.5 billion float means that individual applications are likely to be scaled back.

On average each of the NU's 2.9 million policyholders will get a share windfall worth £1,400. The deadline today was for members to apply for extra shares at a 25p discount to the institutional offer.

Lloyd's wins first bankruptcy order

By Jon Ashworth

LOYD'S of London has won a "refusnik" name from Cheshire — the first in a wave of actions aimed at recovering more than £600 million in outstanding funds.

Brian Rowlands, who owns betting shops in the Liverpool area, is believed to be the first name to be made bankrupt by Lloyd's in its 309-year history. Mr Rowlands, 53, of Prestbury, Cheshire, owed about £62,000 to Lloyd's, which last year agreed a £3.2 billion settlement with 33,000 members, aimed at drawing a line under its past losses. He refused to pay and would not enter into discussions aimed at reaching a settlement.

Lloyd's said it would come down equally hard on other non-paying names, who have been dubbed "refusniks" on account of their refusal to settle debts under the Lloyd's recovery plan. A further 12 bankruptcy petitions are

pending, while another 40 names face statutory demands for payment. This means they will be made bankrupt unless they settle up, or come to an agreement over repayments.

About 1,500 names owing more than £400 million have refused to accept the Lloyd's settlement. A further 1,700 have accepted but have yet to pay up. Ron Sandler, the Lloyd's chief executive, told the Lloyd's annual meeting last week: "We are left with no choice but to take all legal steps available to us to recover these debts. This we are doing with absolute determination."

Lloyd's has agreed a settlement with Derek Walker, the controversial former underwriter, who appealed against costs imposed last year by a Lloyd's disciplinary tribunal. He faces a bill of up to £100,000, including a £20,000 fine.

Agents hatch plans, page 29

Wall Street lifts London to record

THE stock market reached a record high yesterday, buoyed by another strong showing on Wall Street and renewed speculation over takeover activity in the financial services sector (Alasdair Murray writes).

The FTSE 100 enjoyed a late surge to close up 52.9 points at 4,739.6, a record close. Wall Street was also on course to set a third consecutive record, with the Dow Jones industrial average up 67.82 points at 7,546.32 at midday.

The CBI became the latest organisation to call for tax rises in the Budget, asking for a "modest" increase of £2 billion in personal taxes. Kate Barker, chief economics adviser, said that without tax increases, interest rates would need to rise to 7.5 per cent to head off inflation.

The pound closed up over a penny at DM2.1845, while sterling's trade weighted index rose from 99.0 to 99.7.

Markets, page 28

Americans draw up SIB blueprint

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

A LEADING American management consultancy firm has been appointed to draw up a blueprint for the future of City regulation under a beefed-up Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

McKinsey is to work with a new task force set up to develop an implementation plan to be presented to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, at the end of July. If the plan is approved, McKinsey, which last night declined to comment on the appointment, could have its brief extended, putting it in line for a lucrative multi-million pound contract.

The task force is made up of senior executives from all the main City watchdogs, including the SIB, the Bank of England and Imro, which polices fund managers, the Securities and Futures Authority, responsible for brokers and futures traders, and the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms

selling direct to the public. Howard Davies, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England who will become chairman of the new super-SIB at the end of July and who is a former McKinsey employee, is already working closely on the plans to present to Mr Brown. It is expected that Andrew Winckler, chief executive of SIB, will retain his post under the new regime. Michael Foot, the Bank director in charge of banking supervision which will come under the auspices of super-SIB, could also be appointed as a fellow chief executive.

Charles Goodhart, a member of the Bank's new monetary policy committee, said: "Our preference was not for a mega-regulator but for three of four separated supervisors. Nevertheless, since we are likely to have a mega-regulator, we would hope very much that it gets the internal structure as near perfect as is possible."

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James Herrick
CHARDONNAY

British group sets out terms of biotech merger with Swedes

Amersham to create world leader

By PAUL DURMAN

AMERSHAM International claims it will create the world's largest biotechnology supply business when it merges its life science arm with Pharmacia Biotech, based in Sweden.

Setting out the terms of the deal, first leaked two weeks ago, Amersham said the new company will have annual sales of £430 million, profits of at least £60 million and 3,600

employees. The new company will be called Amersham Pharmacia Biotech and its chief executive will be Ron Long, the Norwegian-born managing director of Amersham Life Science (ALS). Mr Long is preparing to move to Uppsala in Sweden, where the new company will be based.

Amersham believes it will be better able to take advantage of opportunities in drug development and gene re-

search by combining its existing business, based around molecular labelling, with Pharmacia Biotech's skills in biotechnology separation and DNA analysis systems.

The British company will own 55 per cent of Amersham Pharmacia, with the rest owned by Pharmacia & Upjohn, the Swedish-American pharmaceuticals group based in Windsor. Yesterday's deal envisages a partial flotation of the new company and in-

cludes options that could see Amersham take full control if the flotation does not proceed within the next two-and-a-half years.

With sales of £269 million, Pharmacia is larger but less profitable than its merger partner. Amersham expects to be able to make savings on research and development, sales and marketing and information technology that will eventually reach £30 million a year. The changes are expected to involve the loss of 300 jobs, and will cost £60 million.

Mr Long said the enlarged company would be able to spend about £40 million a year on R&D, against the £12 million ALS spent last year.

ALS contributed increased profits of £37.4 million (£34.7 million) to Amersham's group total of £65.8 million (£50.8 million) for the year to March 31. Group sales were 21 per cent higher at £426 million.

The healthcare side of the

business, which includes imaging agents such as Ceretec and Myoview, lifted underlying profits 20 per cent to £21.1 million. With the inclusion of profits from Nihon Medi-Physics, a Japanese joint venture, total healthcare profits doubled to £34.9 million.

A final dividend of 16p a share, payable on August 5, increased the total payout by 22 per cent to 22p.

Tempus, page 28

Severn Trent cuts leaks and lifts dividend

By OLIVER AUGUST

SEVERN TRENT, the water company, has reduced leakage by a third over the past year but the speed of leakage reductions will slow dramatically over the next three years.

About 16 per cent of Severn's water still leaks from its pipes, down from 24 per cent a year ago. It will take the company until 2000 to bring leakage down by a further 4 percentage points to 12 per cent, the target set by the regulator.

Vic Cocker, chief executive, said: "Sixteen per cent is a pretty respectable number, but

it gets progressively more difficult to find the leaks."

Severn also said yesterday that it will go through with the second half of its share buy-back, amounting to 4.4 per cent of the total share capital, subject to approval at the annual meeting in July. The company bought back 5.6 per cent of its shares last December.

Mr Cocker said: "We are restructuring our balance sheet. Other utilities have done so already. We are lowering the general cost base of the business." He denied the buyback would encourage the Treasury to levy a higher windfall tax on Severn. "I don't think this buyback is particularly inflammatory," he said. It will hand up to £250 million to shareholders while customers' rebates over five years total £87 million.

In the year to March 31, pre-tax profits before exceptional items rose to £391 million, from £373 million. This excludes a £20 million charge for further restructuring and £4.5 million exceptional costs associated with the failed bid for South West Water.

Earnings per share, after exceptional items, fell to 87.2p, from 89.6p. The final dividend is lifted to 22.16p, from 19.33p, and is due on August 6, as is a second unchanged interim dividend of 3.84p. The total is 32.66p, up from 28.53p.

New chief at Tag Heuer

ROBERT Louis-Dreyfus, the chairman of Adidas and former chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, is to take on a new challenge as chairman of Tag Heuer, the Swiss sports watch company (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The watch company's shares have underperformed the market since flotation and would expect to benefit from the association with M. Louis-Dreyfus, who has a strong reputation for reviving companies' fortunes.



Brian Duckworth, left, a Severn Trent director, and Vic Cocker plan a further buyback

BA to invest £6bn in three-year programme

By JON ASH-WORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to invest £6 billion in new services, products, facilities and training over the next three years.

The programme, which sprang to life yesterday with the unveiling of BA's new livery, will see massive investment in new aircraft, including 29 Boeing 747-400s, nine 777s, and five 757s. Inflight entertainment will be overhauled, and BA's terminal at New York's JFK airport is to receive a \$100 million (£61 million) face-lift.

BA has invested £200 million in the past two years on cabin refurbishments, including "flying beds" in First Class, and cradle seats in Club World. Hamish Taylor, who led the redesign for BA, recently defected to London & Continental Railways, to become managing director of Eurostar (UK).

Most of the £6 billion will be invested in new aircraft, although BA has set aside substantial sums for staff training. This includes a training programme for cabin crew encouraging them "to deliver service more as themselves [sic] rather than to a rigidly applied corporate formula".

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said: "During the next three years, we will be rolling out an investment programme worth some £6 billion. A successful British Airways, competing effectively with the best in the world, is the only way to guarantee jobs."

Bank investigates potential fraud

MOSCOW Narodny Bank (MNB), the former official Soviet merchant bank, is under investigation by the Bank of England over a potential £6 million fraud. The Bank of England has commissioned a report by external accountants into the potential fraud, which involved a customer being provided with trade finance facilities by Moscow Narodny, under section 39 of the Banking Act. The potential fraud was detected by the internal control systems at Moscow Narodny, which was launched in 1919 by the newly installed Communist Government, and reported by MNB to the Bank.

As a matter of City procedure a banking officer has been sent home on paid leave from the London office of the bank pending the completion of the investigation. Moscow Narodny, which was one of the pioneers of the Eurodollar market in the 1960s, has also commenced commercial litigation for the recovery of the money outstanding.

US growth helps Volex

VOLEX, the interconnect products and cable assembly group, reported a 13.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14.4 million in the year to March 31, enjoying a particularly strong growth in business in North America. Group turnover rose to £177.26 million, from £174 million previously. The total dividend is increased to 21p a share, from 20p, with a 13.65p final, payable from earnings that rose to 34.3p a share from 32.1p.

Scottish Highland up

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS, which came to the stock market in November, is lifting the interim dividend 20 per cent after returning better than expected results at the halfway stage. A dividend of 1.2p will be paid on July 1, much earlier than expected, suggesting a total payout of 4p. This would cost the company £971,000 — 10 per cent of which will go to the directors. Pre-tax profit was £749,000 (£275,000) in the six months to April 30, with earnings 2.6p (2p) a share.

Hotel group advances

MACDONALD HOTELS almost doubled pre-tax profits to £9.16 million (£4.78 million) in the year to March 30 after adding five hotels to its portfolio and taking occupancy levels to 63 per cent. Management contracts brought in £1.1 million of operating profits, a 33 per cent increase. The group spent £13.2 million on development over the year. Earnings rose to 12.01p (8.67p) a share. A final dividend of 3p, due on August 15, takes the total to 4.5p. The shares eased 3p to 176½p.

Charles Stanley falls

CHARLES STANLEY spent £400,000 adapting its systems to Crest, the paperless share system last year, leaving the City broker with pre-tax profits 18 per cent down, at £2.08 million. After the firm bought two broking offices in Bedford and Reigate, turnover strengthened to £17.4 million (£15.9 million) although the expansion costs took earnings down to 13.6p (17.2p) a share. The total dividend rises to 3.825p (3.5p), with a final 0.25p due on July 11. The shares gained 1p to 136½p.

Drummond sales rise

DRUMMOND, the Yorkshire textile and weaving company, has returned its strongest results for seven years in spite of suffering heavy costs because of machinery breakdown. Pre-tax profits jumped from £1.2 million to £1.5 million, in the year to March 31. Borrowings rose to £12.5 million, but the company promised that this would now start to drop back. Earnings rose to 5.17p (4p) a share. A final dividend of 1.5p, payable on October 1, brings the total to 2p (1.5p).

Kent to join NatWest

PEN KENT, the former executive director of the Bank of England, is to join the NatWest Group as a main board director on September 1. Mr Kent, 59, who was once private secretary to the Governor of the Bank, will become a member of the bank's group audit and compliance committee as well as taking a similar post with NatWest Markets.

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CU launches big shake-up to save £100m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

COMMERCIAL UNION is reacting to a stagnating general insurance market by launching a major shake-up aimed at saving £100 million over the next two years.

The composite insurer said yesterday that the best way to boost profits would be through cutting costs rather than growing new business.

Peter Rice, UK divisional director of CU, said: "Our firm plans at present are for making efficiencies, but there will be no compulsory redundancies among our 5,500 general insurance staff."

The programme, called Market Orientation, will involve the head office being divided into nine new trading units handling product development, underwriting, marketing and delivery.

CU hopes to save £40 million from cutting administration costs through greater use of new technology, £20 million from new software to improve pricing and margins, and £40 million from reduced claims costs.

Four of the group's 22 branches have piloted the changes. CU said that many of the costs involved in the programme had already been

incurred as normal business expenses and there would be no hidden charge coming up later in the year.

In the last financial year, general insurance contributed a quarter of the group's total worldwide pre-tax operating profit of £444 million. Traditional composite insurers are looking at ways of operating more efficiently to compete with direct insurers that have entered the market recently.

Tempus, page 28

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.25	2.08
Austria Sch	20.67	19.12
Belgium Fr	60.86	58.22
Canada \$	2.385	2.209
Cyprus Cyp£	0.978	0.811
Denmark Kr	11.22	10.40
Finland Mk	8.35	8.25
France Fr	6.52	9.18
Germany Dm	2.96	2.73
Greece Dr	475	426
Hong Kong \$	13.40	12.77
Iceland	127	107
Ireland P£	1.13	1.05
Israel Sh	5.89	5.34
Italy Lira	2942	2720
Japan Yen	198.50	182.00
Malta	0.651	0.624
Netherlands Gld	3.336	3.058
New Zealand \$	2.52	2.29
Norway Kr	12.28	11.40
Portugal Esc	206.50	275.00
S. Africa Rd	8.06	7.14
Spain Ptas	248.00	230.50
Sweden Kr	13.48	12.45
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.30
Turkey Lm	244.82	228.05
USA \$	1.735	1.601

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

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James Cropper, Chairman

- Record Profit before Tax of £5.0m
- Interest cover 5.8 times
- Earnings per share of 36.2p
- Dividends up 21%
- Gearing reduced to 34%

	1997	1996
Turnover	£39.3m	£37.6m
Operating Profit	£5.9m	£3.0m
Profit before taxation	£5.0m	£1.9m
Dividend	4.7p	3.9p
Earnings per share	36.2p	13.7p

James Cropper PLC

Final curtain for final salary



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Julian Farrand is a doughty champion of ordinary folk in his role of pensions ombudsman, as he was formerly as insurance ombudsman. Unlike some others, he is prepared to challenge and upset the industry professionals. That makes him the right person for the job. But even champions can be wrong. Mr Justice Walker's judgment on the National Grid pension fund suggests that in electricity he pushed the primacy of individual members' rights too far.

Final salary pensions are inescapably paternalistic, in the best sense. They were set up by caring companies to guarantee employees a decent retirement and accepted on the same trusting basis by beneficiaries. Give and take and common sense come with the moral furniture.

Employees' trust has been betrayed by some greedy companies who see pension fund surpluses as a pot of cash to be extracted and pocketed. Many advisers were only too keen to help. But courts now stamp on such behaviour, which will become harder under the regime set up by the Pensions Act 1995.

Under that post-Maxwell law, employers still normally have first call on actuarial surpluses, usually to finance contribution holidays, as a *quid pro quo* for their guarantee. But they cannot dispose of surpluses without trustees agreeing. Trustees should include members chosen by employees and are ultimately

answerable to the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, the industry's latest quango.

Mr Farrand lost the electricity argument on legal detail, to the great relief of the pension fund industry. The joint electricity fund left over from state ownership allowed the employer to "make arrangements to deal with surplus". What a rogue's charter. But the companies were not rogues. They used the surplus to give extra pension rights to workers made redundant.

Otherwise, the cash might have come out of shareholders' funds. Or redundant employees might have been offered less. Many trustees would think that a good use of surplus.

In the new climate, such flexibility will surely die with the paternalism that spawned it. Employees are becoming rights-conscious and suspicious, partly because so many cost-conscious employers have tried to make life one long contributions holiday. Often, the holiday is paid for by employees made redundant, whose pensions are capped.

Pension fund professionals should not gloat over their victory. Mr Farrand will doubtless win other cases if there is no appeal on this one. His judgment

on the Government's dodgy handling of the National Bus pension fund, which will eventually be tested in court, looks good.

More seriously, the breakdown of trust undermines final salary schemes, in favour of arms length pensions that depend totally on investment returns. That is tidier, more foolproof but not always so fair or kind. On current contribution rates, pensions will not be so good either.

A fat cat amongst the PFI pigeons

Malcolm Bates — who, like Labour's new welfare-to-work supremo, Sir Peter Davis, heads a pensions mis-selling company — is to deliver his blueprint for reforming the Private Finance Initiative on Friday. It is likely to incorporate many of the ideas being developed by Alastair Ross

Goobey before he was fired as head of the Private Finance Panel to make way for the Pearl chairman, so indicating that this is a genuine relaunch may require drastic action. Bates will almost certainly recommend a change of name. Bye bye PFI, hello PPP, the Public-Private Partnership.

On top of that he will address the issue of streamlining the bidding process, so that many projects can be fast tracked to avoid becoming bogged down within the civil service, and restructuring the way health service trusts enter into contracts. But Bates's most fundamental proposal will be on the issue of risk transfer. This was an ideological concept dreamt up by Francis Maude when he was in Government and grasped enthusiastically by the Treasury, which saw it as a way of avoiding those nasty cost overruns that tend to plague Government contracts. The idea is that private

companies take a large share of the risk on a contract and, if it goes well, should collect a commensurate proportion of the reward. But construction companies like Costain and Tarmac who have weak balance sheets cannot face such a level of risk and the Government, as it showed last week in its embarrassing intervention into Camelot, is unreasonably prudish about rewards.

When Camelot tendered to run the lottery, it invested a fortune in a pre-PFI project which had no guarantee of success. When the gamble paid off, there was an outcry at the reward it reaped. If in a similar way, someone building PFI hospitals was to make a mint and paid their directors a healthy bonus, what would the Government do?

The solution is tricky. Narrowing the distance between the upside and the downside has some attraction. But there has to be some risk/reward pay off to make

PFI attractive to both the private and public sector. Without it all that will be left is an horrendously complex way of tendering for public contracts. Bates has to tell the Government that if it wants the benefit of PFI, it will have to swallow some fat cattery. He must hope that Gordon Brown is not in the mood for shooting the messenger.

Lord Hanson sees surge of Energy

Lord Hanson may see some vindication for his demerger strategy in the generous cash offer now being made for Energy Group.

The break up of his eponymous business empire was supposed to demonstrate the value he and Lord White had accumulated for shareholders, but the stock market's initial reaction to the dismemberment was as welcoming as that of the board of ICI when the predatory peer dropped his calling card on the company's share register.

Turning old Hanson into four companies failed to enthuse investors. The most glamorous aspect of the exercise remained Robert Hanson, the habitué of

the gossip columns who may yet take over the top job in the building materials business that now bears his family name.

There was certainly little initial enthusiasm for Energy Group — a combination of Eastern, a British electricity and gas business, and Peabody Coal, a US operation with an unhappy labour relations record.

But the move by Pacificorp indicates that Lord H was right. And as Chancellor Gordon Brown will no doubt take note, the fact that the bidders are prepared to offer a 20 per cent premium to the market price indicates a phlegmatic approach to the imminent windfall tax. Despite the public protestations from the utilities, most are reconciled to the fact that the tax is going to have to be paid. What the Energy bid indicates is how easily they think it can be afforded.

Market mystery

WHATEVER is powering the stock market to new highs, it is not mere logic. The upsurge in share prices is restricted to a few sectors, particularly the financials, where punters are betting on takeovers at some fancy prices. But the stores sector is down on a year ago and the breweries and leisure grouping has barely moved. Surely those collecting their windfalls from the converting building societies cannot be so restrained that the shops and pubs will not feel the benefit.

Milk prices take toll of Northern

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE falling price of raw milk should mean a substantial recovery in profits at the Northern Foods dairy business in the current year, Christopher Haskins, chairman, said yesterday.

The company reported a 2.3 per cent rise in pre-tax and pre-exceptional profits to £127.1 million in the year to March 31. This came in spite of £17 million being knocked off profits because of the collapse in milk powder and buttercream prices in the year.

The company is confident that, after a cut in the raw milk price last April, the price set by Milk Marque should come down by a further 1.2p to 1.6p per litre in the autumn. Northern Foods buys half its milk from Milk Marque and half direct from farmers.

Neil Davidson, managing director of Northern's dairy business, echoed other dairy companies when he said that the pricing system needs to be adapted to be more responsive to currency changes.

The BSE crisis cost North-

ern Foods £20 million in net sales reduction and £5.4 million off its net operating profit last year. It had an impact both on the company's meat products and convenience foods division. The latter had an otherwise strong year with operating margins increasing from 6.7 to 8.1 per cent.

The company is planning heavy investments, particularly in the businesses that supply Marks & Spencer, its largest customer. Investment in productivity and expansion in prepared foods are set to reach £80 million both this year and next, compared with £57 million last year.

The company, which has reduced its gearing from 45 to 30 per cent, is now looking for acquisitions and may make some "exploratory investments" on the Continent in the coming year.

It is paying a final dividend of 5.8p (5.5p) on October 1, giving a total of 9.4p (9p). The shares put on 6½p to 206½p.

Tempus, page 28

FirstBus appeals to Beckett

By FRASER NELSON

TREVOR SMALLWOOD, the chief executive of FirstBus, is appealing to Margaret Beckett to release the group from its obligation to sell one of its main Scottish bus operators before its acquisition of Strathclyde Buses is approved.

Mr Smallwood says the central Scottish bus market has fundamentally changed since Ian Lang, the previous President of the Board of Trade, said it must sell Bluebird Buses before the Strathclyde deal was approved by the DTI.

He said its Midland Bluebird buses and Strathclyde Buses are both facing renewed competition from other operators. This, he said, warrants a fresh inquiry by the monopolies commission.

The company doubled its pre-tax profits to £51 million (£22 million) in the year to March 31. Earnings were 14.4p (10.4p) a share, and the dividend rises to 5.5p. A final 3.7p is payable on August 29.

Indonesian firm to buy SR Gent

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STRUGGLING SR Gent, a clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer, is being acquired by Prospero Investments, an Indonesian-based company.

SR Gent had a pre-tax loss of £11.1 million last year and has been in talks with potential buyers since the autumn.

Prospero is offering 82p per share for the company, valuing it at £30.6 million.

The offer has already been accepted by directors of SR Gent and other shareholders who between them control 61.3 per cent of the company.

Mike Stakol, chief executive of SR Gent, said: "After a period of great uncertainty, the offer by Prospero represents a fair value for SR Gent."

Prospero said that it would review all the manufacturing operations of SR Gent in the UK and overseas, but added that it was committed to the UK as a high-quality manufacturing base. SR Gent shares rose 8p to 79½p.

West End rent spiral helps Great Portland

A SHORTAGE of new office space is sending rents rocketing upwards in London's West End, helping to boost property values at Great Portland Estates (Carl Morrishead writes).

The company's West End portfolio grew by almost 10 per cent over the past year and Richard Peskin, chairman, estimates rents have advanced up to 15 per cent since March.

Mr Peskin said: "Rents in the West End, where Westminster's planning policies and the current vogue for residential use continue to restrict the supply of offices,

have grown by at least 20 per cent in the last two years."

The West End office glut of the 1980s has been followed by a flood of office-to-residential conversions, exacerbating the office supply shortage.

Overall, Great Portland's properties gained 4.8 per cent in value in the year to March, helping net asset value to rise by 15p to 212p a share. Pre-tax profits were £46 million (£47.6 million). The total dividend is maintained at 9p. Earnings were 10.4p a share (10.6p).

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Investor wrath floors price of BTR shares

BTR has become the most unpopular constituent of the top 100 companies with institutional investors. They continued piling out of the shares yesterday as the price touched 180p before a late rally reduced the deficit to 2p at 182p, its lowest level for five years. More than 17 million shares changed hands. The warrants also suffered, finishing 2p lower at 21p.

The fall from grace by the industrial conglomerate, whose interests include Hawker Siddeley, has cost many of the big securities houses a fortune. Only last year the price was trading at a peak of 330p.

Several traders refused to discuss BTR, claiming they are sitting on potentially large losses and have been attracting increasing flak from their latest institutional clients.

The group slashed its dividend by a third in September and last month issued its fourth profits warning in three years, only days after SBC Warburg, the broker, placed 80 million shares, or 2 per cent of the company, with various institutions at 219p.

While BTR was heading south, the rest of the equity market was scaling new heights on the back of another strong showing by the Dow Jones industrial average. Overnight, the Dow had reached a new all-time peak and in early trading last night soared almost a further 100 points. The FTSE 100 index responded with a leap of 52.9 to close at a best 4,739.6 as 871 million shares were traded.

By contrast, the rise in the FTSE 250 was a more modest 13.2 to 4,497.3, while in New York the Nasdaq index, which includes Microsoft and Intel, fell 0.78 to 953.78.

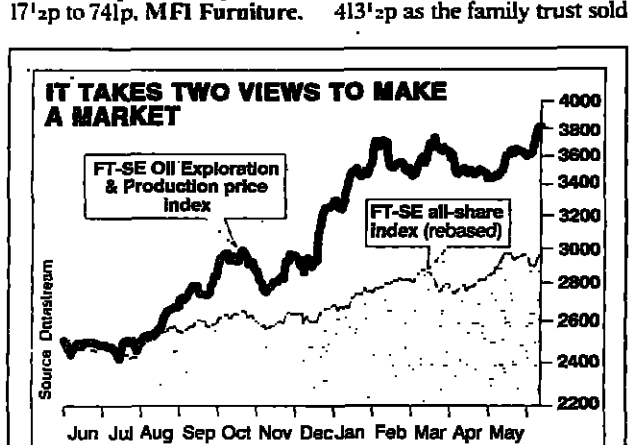
Among the losers, GEC put on 17p at 353p. Lehman Brothers has set a target price of 400p a share. Once again there is talk about GEC bidding for British Aerospace, 8p lower at 113.50. BAE is currently taking a party of brokers on a two-day trip to the Airbus plant at Toulouse followed by a visit to another site in Lancashire.

LucasVarity is also hosting a visit to its Perkins diesel operation. They were clearly impressed with what they saw and the shares responded with a rise of 14p at 209p. BT raced towards the 500p target price set by Merrill Lynch



BAe, Airbus consortium member, dropped 8p on bid talk

with a rise of 12p at 482p. High street stores were encouraged by the latest monthly British Retail Survey showing a near 5 per cent rise in the value of sales. There were gains for Great Universal Stores, 8p at 652p. Marks & Spencer, 3p at 514p. Storehouse, 5p at 199p. Boots, 19p to 727p. Dixons, 17p to 508p. Next, 17p to 741p. MFI Furniture,



the outlook for Lasso. He says the shares look cheap compared with their peers. "Enterprise is expensive compared with its net asset value of 500p. Italy may take longer than expected to come on stream."

Wright reckons Enterprise is still heavily reliant on mature areas and must make significant finds to keep growing. By contrast, Lasso is trading at a small premium to its net asset value of 228p. He feels comfortable with this considering the bearish outlook for the oil price generally for the rest of the year.

By contrast Jon Wright, at Merrill Lynch, prefers

12.7 million shares, or 3 per cent of the equity, at 400p. Granada moved up 12p to 902p after confirmation of its bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, 5p lighter at 111.55. The terms are expected to be pitched around £11.75, valuing Yorkshire at £652 million. Granada already owns 25 per cent.

Scottish Media followed up its bid for Grampian Television, up 7p at 317p, by snapping up 9 per cent of its shares in the marketplace. It picked up 3.26 million shares at 320p, matching the terms from Scottish, 7p dearer at 700p. This puts a price tag on Grampian of £105 million.

NFC moved ahead 3p to 141p reflecting the week's purchase of 500,000 shares by Sir Colin Bland, chairman, at 134p. It lifts his total holding to 1.5 million shares, or less than one per cent. Only last week NFC reported an increase in pre-tax profits during the first six months from £45.4 million to £53.3 million.

Confirmation of its proposed link-up with Pharmacia & Upjohn sent shares of Amersham International soaring 131p to £14.82. Energy Group was a late mover, adding 8p to 580p on news of its proposed merger with Pacific Corporation.

Seaford Resources put on a further 4p at 65p after confirming a bid approach on Monday. At these levels the group is valued at £45 million. A bid approach also lifted S R Gent 6p to 79p.

The best performance of the day was seen in HighPoint, the property agency, where the price surged 30p, or 109 per cent, to 57p on the back of its proposed restructuring and fundraising plans.

Jarvis reached a new high with a jump of 5p at 296p. GILT-EDGED: A late rally prompted by a firm start to trading among US Treasury bonds enabled London to close with small losses on the day. In futures, the September series of the long gilt edged a tick lower to close at £113.1 as a total of 70,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 also shed a tick at £108.7, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unmoved at £102.14.

NEW YORK: Share prices took off for the third day running and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 67.82 points ahead at 7,546.32.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7546.32 (+67.82)
S&P Composite 867.04 (+4.13)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20532.55 (+308.73)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14499.71 (+215.42)

Amsterdam:
EOD Index 830.77 (+1.44)

Sydney:
AO 2628.9 (+28.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3665.01 (+2.42)

Singapore:
Straits 2014.78 (+15.43)

Brussels:
General 13367.80 (+49.78)

Paris:
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SIX Gen 1122.90 (+1.49)

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FT 30 3039.4 (+36.6)
FTSE 100 4739.6 (+52.9)
FTSE 250 4497.3 (+13.2)
FTSE 350 2287.2 (+22.0)
FTSE Europe 100 2381.52 (+7.39)
FTSE All-Share 2242.16 (+19.58)
FTSE Non Financials 2253.74 (+19.93)
FTSE Fixed Interest 120.63 (+0.07)
FTSE Govt Secs 96.52 (+0.08)
Bulgaria 533.99
SEAO Volume 871.9m
US\$ 1.6395 (+0.0058)
German Mark 2.8145 (+0.0033)
Swedish Krona 1.1715 (+0.0011)
Bank of England official close (open)
E:ECU 1.4336
E:SDR 1.7176
RFF 156.3 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1997-100
RFX 155.8 Apr (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester 623p +16p
Aston Villa 800 +15p
Cable & Wireless 201p +15p
Barnes 100 +15p
Downing Hth VCT 100 +15p
Eagles 35 +15p
Gallagher 276p +15p
Hallifax 762 +13p
Heart of Midlothian 112p +13p
ITC Group 158p +13p
Integrated As Mgt 125 +13p
Int'l Biotech S Shares 99 +13p
Lady in Leisure 134p +13p
Longbridge Intl 117p +13p
NMT (S) 47p +13p
Newmark Tech 12p +13p
Pennine AIM VCT II 100 +13p
Pera Diamonds 91p +13p
Pera Diamonds 72p +13p
Qualcomm (I43) 155p +13p
Royalblue Group 212p +13p
SBS Group 117p +13p
Soccer Investments 102p +13p
Toppis Tiles 111p +13p
Versatile Group 3p +13p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (205) 17p
Tadpole Tech n/p (10) 1p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
HighPoint 57p (+30p)
McBride 135p (+11p)
SOCO Intl 256p (+20p)
BTP 290p (+22p)
Fired Earth 196p (+13p)
Firebus 217p (+14p)
Estates Agency 426p (+26p)
GEC 353p (+17p)
Legal & General 472p (+20p)
Lloyds TSB 649p (+27p)

FALLS:
Chiroscience 280p (-14p)
Waste Recycling 222p (-10p)
Brit Biotech 247p (-8p)
Celltech 285p (-8p)
Scotia 371p (-9p)
Brit Land 587p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

There is no free lunch, and corporate restructurings are no exception. Launched with much fanfare, Commercial Union's £100 million programme of cost reductions (elegant dubbed "Market Orientation") failed to attract much attention. The shares rose 1 per cent, suggesting that investors were less than convinced that the savings could be achieved, as CU claims, without shedding jobs or spending lots of money.

True, the insurance industry is struggling under mounds of paper and management jobsworths, a fact that has led to some consolidation, albeit not enough. The trouble is that companies find it easier to close branches and send their staff packing when faced with the corporate equivalent of an earthquake, that is to say, a takeover. Hence the Royal & Sun Alliance merger, but

Commercial Union appears to believe it can be transformed without breaking eggs. This is a defensive move: CU appears to have accepted that there is no recovery in sight in the dire general insurance market. With no top-line growth, the only way to raise returns is to tackle the cost-base. However, CU has other reasons to want to look efficient. The company is a favourite bid target in the City and better cost ratios would give pause for thought among predatory banks and financial groups. Were CU to achieve the savings, it would be in a powerful position to talk turkey with another composite insurer, such as BAT. However, the real message here is the weakness of general insurance. More capital needs to exit this market which is besieged daily by new entrants and CU said nothing about that.

Great Portland

THE Chancellor could deal a blow to Great Portland next month by changing the rules on the dividend tax credit. Like many investment property companies, Great Portland pays out most of its earnings and these have not been growing since the recession put paid to their top-line revenue growth.

Great Portland's corporate tax charge was 24 per cent last year and has been able to offset most of that with the ACT payable on the dividend. Were the Chancellor to engage in a backdoor corporate tax increase by reducing the ability of companies to offset ACT against mainstream corporation tax, Great Portland might be faced with a problem: an increase in tax at a time when profits are not growing. That sort of squeeze

could well lead to a cut in the dividend.

Elsewhere, things are looking good for Great Portland. The recession sent the grim reaper through the capital values should rise sharply on the back of a shortage in West End office space. If Great Portland gears up a bit further, the shares could move smartly ahead.

Amersham Intl

THE City once fretted over the outlook for Amersham International's mature radioactive labelling business. The life science arm has now expanded into several more exciting areas and yesterday's deal with Pharmacia Biotech will make the merged company the leader in something it calls the biotechnology supply industry.

The stock market loves it. Amersham shares gained nearly 10 per cent on the news. The addition of Pharmacia's strengths in biotechnology separation and DNA analysis provide the new company with the kit it needs in the fast-moving areas of drug development and gene research.

Amersham Pharmacia Biotech will be able to support more research and development and deliver considerable margin gains by reducing costs at the less efficient Pharmacia Biotech; savings of £30 million a year

by fiscal 2000 are targeted. Plans for the merged business are well advanced by management, that have a chance to avoid the cultural conflicts that bedevilled Pharmacia's merger with Upjohn. Biggest is not necessarily best in this hi-tech field where much of the cleverest technology is emerging from universities and smaller entrepreneurial companies, but the merged group should have the clout to buy in what it lacks.

Northern Foods

AFTER mad cows, currency dealers did most of the damage at Northern Foods, which suffered a £17 million hit from the strong pound after a £5.4 million loss because of BSE.

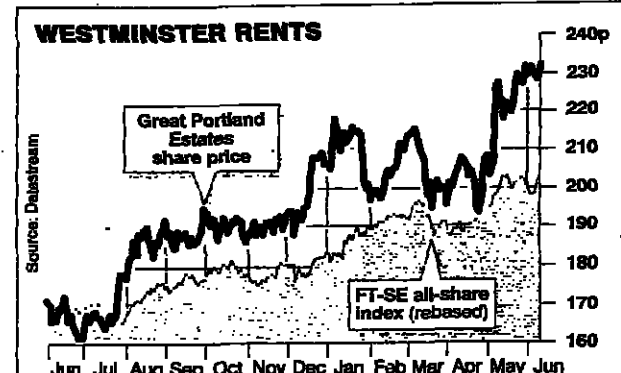
The current year looks a lot rosier. BSE has worked its way through the system, while the impact of sterling on commodity prices should be less severe as the cost of milk, the raw material, has

come down. Northern Foods' strongest arm is convenience goods where operating margins expanded 1.4 per cent to 8.1 per cent. Northern is the company you have to thank if you rely on Marks & Spencer's ready meals. Heavy investment in the divisions that supply M&S is on the way and the business should remain a nice earner, although the sort of margin growth seen last year will be hard to repeat, given the strong arm of the customer.

On the dairy side, the price situation allowed Northern to sound more upbeat yesterday than it has for a long time. But at heart it remains a very tough business, with supermarkets forever driving prices lower and doorstep sales still in decline, albeit at a slower rate.

Nonetheless, Northern is in better shape now and its oversold shares could at last be worth a modest flutter, although not above 220p.

EDITED BY CARL MORTHESE



COMMODITIES

ICEUS (London 0.00pm)
CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical 16.95 -0.05
Brent 15 day (Jul) 17.65 -0.05
Brent 15 day (Aug) 17.95 -0.05
WTI Intermediate (Jul) 18.00 -0.10
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They had the kind of address books that direct marketing companies would have killed for, filled with hundreds of clients who could each lay their hands on at least £250,000.

Decorum, and the well-bred sensibilities of the bulk of their clients, stopped Lloyd's of London members' agents from realising the full value of these assets.

Now, with their future in serious doubt, the men who have traditionally acted as the representatives of names, liaising with underwriters and helping to select syndicates for their clients, cannot afford to sit on their hands.

They are aiming to diversify into other areas of financial services, such as equities and pensions. Having worked in a self-regulating market, some, for the first time, are now taking external exams that are commonplace in other areas of finance.

The address books, whittled down by the scandals and the £8 billion losses of the 1987-92 period, are having to work a lot harder. Having

Lloyd's members' agents seek to expand services

weathered the exodus of thousands of members after the society's rescue package was accepted — the number of individual names underwriting at Lloyd's dropped from 19,537 in 1993 to 9,958 in 1997 — the surviving members' agencies, now fewer than 20 after a fresh wave of consolidation, face a potent ongoing threat.

It centres on the possible abolition of the annual joint venture. This is the mechanism under which names have the right to commit themselves to underwriting on an annual basis.

Its opponents say the annual joint venture is costly and gives the impression to customers that the underlying capital base is insecure.

Without the annual joint venture, and the ability to shuffle their

exposure on a rolling basis, names would be passive investors.

At Kiln Cotesworth Stewart members' agency, which was formed by a recent merger and represents just under 800 names, new advisory activities for wealthy clients could stretch as far as pensions.

Adrian Graves, chief executive, says: "I would be very reluctant to advise on pensions, but I may well enter into a relationship with someone who does."

Services are likely to include tax planning. The tax affairs of names are famously complex and much expertise has been employed in the design of Scottish limited partnerships, one of several vehicles designed to enable unlimited liability

names to continue underwriting on a limited liability basis without throwing away the traditional tax advantages. Kiln Cotesworth Stewart is among several members' agencies marketing them.

Harrison Brothers members' agency is looking to US corporate capital to plug part of the hole left by individual names. It says that the Americans want hands-on participation but need help because of the distance involved. The agency adds that it also has a tie-up with a US venture capital fund in the pipeline.

There is a general scramble among agencies for clearance by watchdogs such as Imro or the SFA for their new

advisory activities. Some have sister companies with this status already: there is a chain of independent financial advisers within the Hiscox group, for instance. At Murray Lawrence, six members of staff have passed SFA exams this year.

Anton Jardine members' agency has published a paper calling for Lloyd's-based derivatives. The paper, by Robert Miller, a prominent name, envisages a variety of futures and options. Since Lloyd's allows names to auction their right to participate in a syndicate, it suggests introducing options to buy or sell capacity in advance. It also advocates a futures contract based on the society's aggregate result and capacity leasing between names. If names think they are about to enter a bad year, they could lease the right to participate to a less risk-averse member.

Mr Miller says that the proposals provide a natural new role for members' agents as "sophisticated capacity brokers".

ADAM JONES



ANTHONY HARRIS

Case of the Halifax helicopter

The first meeting of the new monetary policy committee must have produced a good deal of bafflement. It is a formidable body: enough practical experience to run a global bank, and enough learning to grace any economics faculty. Or a hedge fund, for that matter: two of them, Charles Goodhart and Willem Buiter, are at the cutting edge of the most arcane new branch of the science, asset pricing. The situation they faced must have looked familiar: an asset price boom, the start of so many past inflations. But as soon as you look into the cause, which is demutualisation, the familiar begins to look odd, like the familiar objects Alice met when she was through the looking-glass. Cause and effect are in a sense running contrariwise.

Consider: asset price inflation, too much money chasing too few stocks or houses is usually the surest sign of slack monetary policy — inflation as Milton Friedman defined, a purely monetary phenomenon. The response is obvious: tighten policy. But this time it is different. The reckless monetary expansion that has financed the bull market has been fed almost entirely from one country, Japan (which tackled overvaluation by printing yen almost without limit — British policy on its head, as it were).

The textbooks have little or nothing to say about imported liquidity. This may help to explain why Alan Greenspan, the great empiricist, has been so circumspect in responding to it. An import offset to the big American fiscal tightening seemed to offer virtue without self-denial: let it go on. Japanese purchases of foreign bonds, the operation which has led to yen devaluation, eased the fiscal squeeze. But since it fed liquidity to the banks, not to the man in the street, the effect has so far been contained in the asset markets: booming prices, lots of bids, but so far no overheating.

The Fed is nervous about the wealth effect in the economy, but is still waiting to see it. British policy has until recently been much the same: but then came the Woolwich and the rest, with the Halifax

as the biggest of the lot. Demutualisation: another problem which has escaped attention, and really very odd. The wealth which has suddenly been unlocked actually existed all along, but as long as it was mutualised, it was more or less invisible. But now that it is suddenly condensing into a heavy rain of spendable money, they have to respond. What, though, is the appropriate response?

Partly it is sheer guesswork. The recipients will spend 10 per cent, reinvest the rest. That was the official guess, but it now looks too conservative, so rates have been raised. But will this make things better, or worse? One reason why the problem has grown bigger as it approached is that the British bull market has been heavily concentrated in the financials (the normal twist that results when the exchange rate goes up). This has made the windfalls bigger than was expected; but higher rates, which will tend to benefit both the currency and the financial sector, could simply make it bigger still. These are deep waters, Watson.

Theory is not very helpful. The nearest thing to the Halifax in the literature of monetary is the Friedman helicopter. The high priest of monetarism was fumbling for an example of a purely monetary inflation. The best he could come up with was to ask his readers to imagine the results of scattering money from a helicopter.

He showed, to his own satisfaction, that this operation would raise prices, but have no effect at all on the real economy. But he suggested no remedy — apart from not scattering money from helicopters, and nobody has thought fit to ban that. The world sniggered, and moved on.

But now that we have a kind of helicopter, we may try a ban. Since raising rates may not work, the Chancellor is rumoured to have his sights on demutualisation itself. Too late, surely; and perhaps the best answer is Greenspan's: if it simply takes the pain out of virtue, do nothing.

Treaty spells payback time for corrupt businessmen

Joanna Pitman investigates the implications of ambitious rules designed to end the use of bribes

The latest international corruption perception index in 1996 ranked Nigeria as the world's most corrupt country and Pakistan as the world's second most corrupt. Pakistan probably bribed the judges... or so the old joke goes.

But corruption is no longer a joking matter. The OECD has announced new recommendations to combat bribery in international business transactions. This week it brings out the first draft of a treaty that will recommend to member countries that they should introduce extraterritorial laws criminalising the bribery of foreign public officials. Proposed legislation should be submitted by next April for enactment by the end of 1998.

This is highly ambitious in terms of both target and timetable, but the point is clear. The problem of corruption will no longer be shrugged off as an endemic and incurable disease in certain cultures. No longer will grand-scale inducements be accepted as an inevitable part of the practice of Western businesses in developing countries. Western business executives who have operated on the assumption that a 15 to 20 per cent bribe to secure a sale in a developing country is culturally acceptable will have to think again if such practices are to be made a criminal offence at home.

"We are not aiming to see large numbers of businessmen in jail," said Mark Pieth, chairman of the OECD working group on bribery. "Our aim is to create a level playing field and secure good governance by operating an internationally binding convention that will make Unilever and General Electric, for example, bound by the same rules when operating around the world. We may not achieve everything so quickly, but we can bring about a certain standard and the picture should look very different by 2000."

The bulk of the responsibility for corruption has gradually been shifting from the shoulders of the recipients (public officials or heads of state if the pickings are rich

enough) on to those of the suppliers (the companies). Too many Western companies march into developing countries with their cheque books poised, and had decisions are being made because the decision makers are being paid," said George Moody Stuart, chairman of Transparency International UK, an affiliate of Transparency International, the non-profit-making organisation set up in 1993 to counter corruption in international business. It has done much to persuade the OECD and other international organisations to think seriously about the possibilities of tackling corruption. "There has been a huge deterioration in the last ten years, with grand corruption becoming the general rule rather than the exception in major government-influenced contracts in the South."

Contracts to sell aircraft, ships and military supplies including telecommunications, have always had the strongest potential for grand (ie, large scale) corruption. The sums of money are enormous, and the high-technology content and a requirement, sometimes genuine, for secrecy makes it difficult to question the validity of the purchasing decision. For example, Pakistan's top naval officer retired in April this year amid allegations of bribery in a £80 million purchase of submarines from DCN, the French submarine maker.

The capital goods element of big industrial projects offers a further area for profitable bribery in which large downpayments for purpose-built equipment can be readily justified. And large civil engineering contracts such as dams, bridges, highways and airports are also likely to offer rich pickings for local officials.

One case in Kenya, in which the contract for the Turkwel Gorge Dam was awarded to French contractors in 1986 without international competitive bidding, attracted the attention of an EC delegate in Kenya. According to his report, the price was double what would have been expected from



International organisations are taking a tougher approach to tackling corruption

competitive bids. The installed price of the turbines was listed as \$277,000 each, against a British consultant's estimate of \$140,000 each. The EC delegate calculated that the cost of energy from Turkwel would be 2.4 times higher than that from an equivalent dam on the Tana River. "The Kenya government officials who are involved in the project are fully aware of the disadvantages of the French deal, but they nevertheless accepted because of high personal advantage," he reported.

This is not to say that senior executives of the developed world's multinationals and big trading companies are a bunch of crooks. More likely they are just highly competitive. Lord Young, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told the BBC in 1994 when he

was chairman of Cable and Wireless: "Now when you're talking about kickbacks, you're talking about something that's illegal in this country, and that of course you wouldn't dream of doing... but there are parts of the world I've been to where we all know it happens, and if you want to be in business you have to do it."

The ramifications of the criminalisation of overseas bribery for international business organisations are likely to be heavy. A board member at Siemens, for example, has estimated that it would take ten years to replace the overseas staff, contacts and networks that all currently expect to operate on the basis of "necessary" bribery.

How will the proposed new laws be policed? "More than half the work has to be done by

the companies themselves," says Dr Pieth. "We will depend on information from competitors, on stricter external auditing, accounting requirements and internal company controls. We may set up an index analysis of business practice to see if it is working. The OECD can be tough."

The only country that has specifically criminalised offshore bribes is the United States, where the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act was introduced by the Carter Administration in 1977. The Act was a response to the disclosure that leading US corporations, such as Lockheed and United Brands, had used bribes to secure foreign orders.

Today, US companies violating the Act are liable to fines of up to \$2 million per violation, and individuals up to

\$100,000 and imprisonment for up to five years. Several hundred companies have been investigated and there have been more than three dozen prosecutions, resulting in substantial fines and prison sentences. Of course the Act has not stopped all foreign bribery by US companies, but most agree that it has significantly changed their behaviour.

Outside the US, however, there is still a long way to go in cleaning up the corruption culture. In 11 OECD member countries, offshore bribes are still tax deductible as legitimate business expenses. "The OECD has urged prompt changes here. But it is not the only organisation tackling corruption head on," said Mr Moody Stuart, whose book *Grand Corruption* looks at how business bribes damage developing countries.

International organisations such as the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe and the Organisation of African States are moving towards changing their regulatory environments to criminalise bribery of foreign officials, to prevent bribes being tax deductible and to improve accounting in this area. The World Bank has recently changed its procurement regulations to strengthen remedies against any bidder shown to have engaged in corrupt practices.

It may be some time before extraterritorial legislation is in place in all OECD member states, and even longer before other non-member states such as the Asian Tigers and South American countries can be tied in via the World Trade Organisation or UN. But it seems that the days in which a lucrative contract could be secured by paying an extra 15 per cent into a minister's numbered Zurich bank account are now drawing to a close.

High noon

SOME more infighting from that strange, parallel world where the Reform Act was never passed, local government in the City. On June 24 there will be elections for the two sheriffs, a ceremonial post that is a precursor to becoming Lord Mayor and requires following the latter around for a year. There are two insiders, both aldermen, David Howard, a stockbroker, and Michael Oliver, of Hill Samuel Investment Management. Normally it would be a shoo-in, but this time there is an



"Next week we'll be having a look at how to survive a takeover"

outsider, Dennis Delderfield, and one who is no fan of the archaic system. Delderfield, editor of the *City of London Times*, has a few things to say to the liverymen who will be assembled at Guildhall to vote in a show of hands. "The City is desperately in need of reform. It's a way of bringing this to their attention." He also plans to challenge electoral circulars from his rivals claiming the support of the Lord Mayor and other aldermen as illegal under the Representation of the People Act. Watch this space.

TO THE first match in the Veuve Clicquot Cup, the City's summer croquet championship sponsored by the champagne house and Corney & Barrow, where I happen on a serious diplomatic incident. As the 100 teams lumber up for the tournament, played at Broadgate's Exchange Square lawn lunchtimes and evenings, Count Edouard de Nazelle, of Veuve Clicquot, claims French ancestry for the game. "Where do you think the words croquet and mallet come from?" he asks. I explain patiently that the game happens to have attached to it a French-sounding name but remains historical.



by an English possession. Like France, really.

Winning post

A SPLENDID night at Windsor racecourse for Malcolm Calvert, partner at Cazenove. A Caz man since 1961 and still known as "Streaky". His half-owned racehorse, Lord Kintyre, won the two-year-olds' race on Monday. This excellent beast was on only its second outing — it ran at Bath, and it was very unlucky," says Calvert, a keen racegoer. Now he is faced with a problem: Newbury next, or the infinitely more prestigious Royal Ascot? I say go for Ascot and have done with it. "We haven't decided," he replies.

Closed door

CHRIS HASKINS, a Labour supporter when Gerry Robinson was in nappies, is still waiting for the call from Downing Street. The Northern Foods chairman turned 60 last week and says he intends to take more of a back seat. This leaves him plenty of spare time, yet so far there has been no formal approach. This can't be fair. Time was when you could have got all of Labour's business supporters into a phone box, and Haskins would have been first through the door. Go on Tony, give him a call.

SIGN of the times? Sir Adam Ridley is retiring, at the grand old age of 55, from the board of Hambros to concentrate more on his other interests, such as Lloyd's. This is the same Sir Adam Ridley, former Treasury mandarin, whose appointment was such a coup for Hambros in 1985. Nothing to do with the change of government? "Absolutely not," says a Hambros insider.

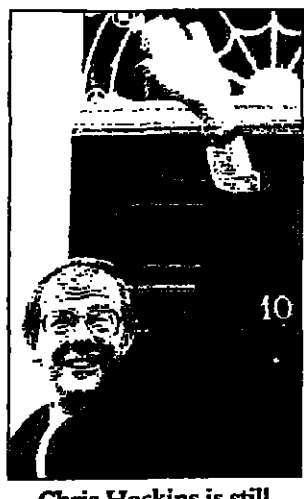
Howard's end

IT SEEMS I was mistaken in suggesting that Howard Hodgson, former chief executive of Ronson, the lighter people, would not be attending last week's launch of a new ad-

vertising campaign for the company's watches, on the day he was sacked. My source inside the company, now, alas, also departed, suggested this.

But, like Banquo's ghost, Hodgson turned up anyway — in plaster after breaking his leg, which meant wearing some rather fetching cut-off denim shorts. "He was very relaxed and cool," says a more reliable informant. "He behaved as if nothing had happened." Incidentally, he once included something rude about me in a trashy book he wrote about the undertaking business. I never hold grudges. But you still have one leg left, Howard.

MARTIN WALLER



Chris Haskins is still waiting for a call from Tony Blair's office

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Babcock in talks to sell division

By MARTIN BARROW

BABCOCK International Group, the engineering company, said yesterday that it is in talks to sell its loss-making process division.

John Parker, chairman, said Babcock had received a number of approaches from potential buyers and these were being evaluated. Babcock intends to retain BWEL, its water engineering joint venture with Yorkshire Water.

The division incurred losses of £4.2 million before exceptional items on turnover of £49.8 million in the last financial year. Dr Parker said the results reflect its vulnerability to the downturn in large projects, such as a titanium dioxide plant in Australia for SCM/Millennium, whose delay was confirmed in January.

Yesterday Babcock also announced it would withdraw from the prototype electric arc furnace (EAF) dust recycling

plant at Caldwell, Texas, with which it has been associated since 1990.

The project, which was intended to develop new technology for the waste-free recycling of toxic EAF dust, has been dogged by changes in environmental legislation in America and aggressive pricing by competitors. Closure of the plant has begun and a buyer is being sought both plant and technology.

This move gives rise to an exceptional charge of £27.3 million, leaving Babcock with a pre-tax loss of £22 million for the year to March 31, compared with a profit of £3.1 million for the previous 12 months.

Dr Parker said the disposal of the process division and the closure of Caldwell would allow Babcock to focus on its two core businesses of facilities management and materials handling, which profits of £17.3 million before tax and exceptional items on turnover of £646 million. Both "have clear potential for further profit growth", he said. The future of the smaller Africa division, which lost £5.1 million last year, is also under review.

Babcock's main strategic success was the acquisition of the Rosyth Royal Dockyard from the Ministry of Defence after two-and-a-half-years of negotiation. As part of the privatisation programme, a substantial programme of work was allocated by the MoD over the next five years. Babcock awaits a MoD decision on its bid to manage the Fleet Maintenance and Repair Organisation at Portsmouth.

Babcock, which ended the year with net cash of £29.3 million, down from £58.2 million, is halving the total dividend to 1.5p a share. Earnings before exceptional items, were 0.39p a share, against losses of 12.75p in the previous year. The shares fell 1 1/2p to 85 1/2p.

BSS suffers first decline in four years

HARSH conditions in the commercial plumbing and heating market forced BSS Group into its first profits downturn in four years, in spite of a resurgence in household demand.

Although sales grew to £333 million (£316 million) in the year to March 31, a heavier reliance on the domestic market left much weaker margins as profits fell from £15.1 million to £12.5 million and earnings from 37.7p to 30.2p a share. The dividend is frozen at 20.5p, with a final 14p, due on August 4. The company said that the commercial market was recovering. The shares slid 3p to a three-year low of 500p.



Eddie Boss, chief executive of Anglian, sees a window of opportunity as demand grows in the housing market

Anglian opens window on growth

By MARTIN BARROW

ANGLIAN GROUP, the replacement window and building products company, has made a confident start to the financial year, with growth in demand supported by the buoyant house market.

Yesterday Anglian reported a rise in pre-tax profits from continuing operations to £20.2 million from £16.2 million for

the year to March 29, on sales that improved to £223.3 million from £194.3 million. Adjusted earnings were 15.5p a share, up from 12.8p. The total dividend is up 20 per cent to 9p a share, with a 5.4p final.

Eddie Boss, chief executive, said: "Steady progress should continue with demand growth likely to be main-

tained in the retail and new house build markets." He said the company was preparing to invest heavily in branding, marketing and operational infrastructure.

Mr Boss said Anglian had benefited from action taken to expand in the home improvement retail market, enhancing the specialist sales force,

backed up by increased expenditure on marketing. Turnover in the retail sector rose to £177 million from £149.1 million.

Progress had also been made in commercial markets, in spite of intense competition to supply to local authorities. Commercial turnover was £46.3 million (£45.2 million).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Shake-up at High-Point

SHARES of High-Point jumped 30p to 57 1/2p yesterday after the troubled road-building company announced a shake-up in its management and the sale of its US subsidiary for £1.35 million. The company is channelling £6.5 million debt into shares, raising £7.7 million through a placing and open offer and awarding its management and staff with a new share option scheme. Tony Palmer, who retired from Taylor Woodrow this month, becomes non-executive chairman. High-Point is forecasting a loss of £13.4 million for the financial year.

Yates to add 30 outlets

YATES BROTHERS WINE plans to create over 800 jobs this year through a £45 million development of Yates's Wine Lodges to the Midlands and the South East of England. The company plans to add another 30 outlets to its portfolio of 69 pubs. Contributions from the 13 new pubs it opened last year helped pre-tax profits to jump to £10.5 million (£7.48 million) and earnings to 21.5p (14p) a share. A final dividend of 2.88p makes 4.32p (3.6p) for the year. A one-for-two share bonus has also been proposed. The shares 7p to 492 1/2p.

Hicking Pentecost slips

HICKING PENTECOST, the specialist industrial threads company, reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £5.4 million, from £6.4 million, in the year ended March 31 after an exceptional charge of £1.68 million against restructuring. Operating profits rose to £8.55 million, from £7.3 million, on turnover from continuing operations of £98.5 million (£85.9 million). Underlying earnings rose to 23.2p a share from 20.3p. The total dividend is increased 14 per cent to 7.4p a share, with a 5p final.

Leeds advances to £5m

LEEDS GROUP, the processor and distributor of textile products, lifted its pre-tax profits to £5.03 million, from £3.27 million, in the half year to March 31, on turnover that rose to £41.96 million, from £31.23 million. Earnings per share increased to 8.7p, from 7.4p. The interim dividend is 2.4p a share, compared with 2.3p last time. Capital expenditure is expected to reach a total £4 million this year, with gearing likely to fall to 17 per cent, from 24 per cent.

Invention helps BTP to record

By FRASER NELSON

THE invention of a new glue dispenser helped BTP, the chemicals and coatings group, to overcome the strong pound and return record profits of £48.2 million (£37.6 million) last year.

The company's new product, which spreads glue as a foam rather than a liquid, generated £9.7 million of sales in the year to March 31, adding to the £15 million of new business won by its adhesives and textile coatings division.

Stephen Hannam, chief ex-

ecutive, said that the company should generate substantially more money from the foam glue dispenser once the idea took root.

The soaring pound knocked £3 million from profits, but Mr Hannam said that the damage would not get any worse as the company's greater buying power was now catching up with the constraints on selling prices.

Earnings were 30.2p (15.1p) a share after a total dividend of 11.75p. A final 7.7p is payable on August 15.

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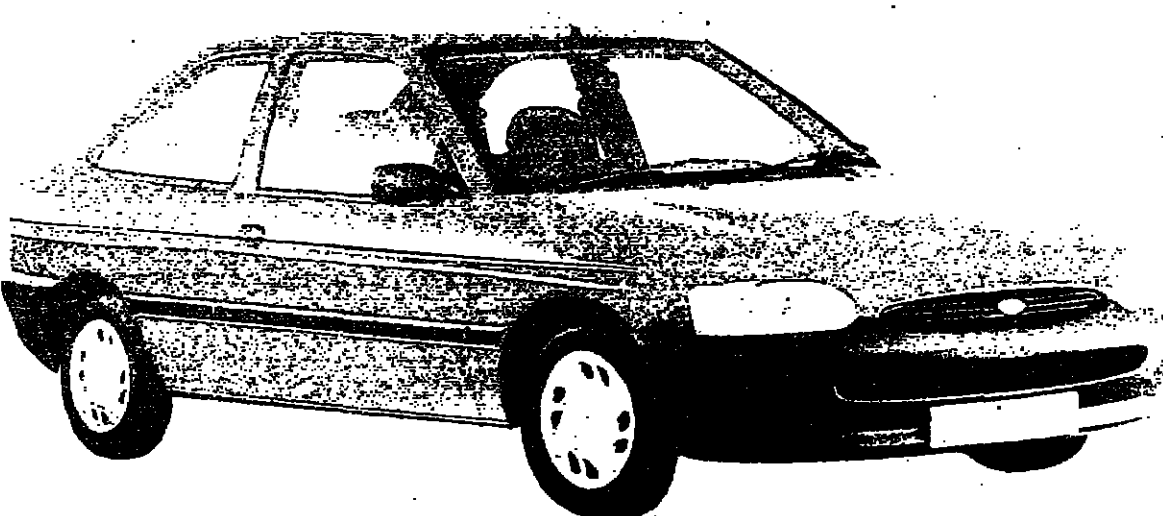
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Annual General Meeting of SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society ("the Society") will be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 27 June 1997 at 12 noon for as soon thereafter as the Special General Meeting convened for 11.00 a.m. on the same date and at the same place is concluded or adjourned for the following purposes:

- To consider the Report and Accounts for 1996 together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports thereon;
- To reappoint the following directors who retire by rotation:
 - (i) [As Resolution 11] P. L. A. Jamieson; and
 - (ii) [As Resolution 21] J. A. Spence;
- [As Resolution 31] to reappoint Ernst & Young as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration; and
- [As Resolution 41] to approve the remuneration to be paid to the directors.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
James C. Mitchell
Secretary

Principal Office:
P.O. Box 25, Craiglorth,
Stirling FK9 4UE

NOTES:

- Any member entitled to vote at meetings of the Society is a "Voting Member" and is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a member of the Society) as his proxy to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote instead of him. A proxy who is not himself a Voting Member is not entitled to speak at the Annual General Meeting except to demand or put in a demand for a poll.
- Forms of proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which they are signed, or a notarial certificate of such power or authority, should be deposited at the principal office of the Society, Craiglorth, Stirling FK9 4UE not later than 12.00 noon on 25 June 1997. The lodging of a form of proxy will not prevent a Voting Member from voting in person at the Annual General Meeting, if he or she wishes to do so.
- It is important that Voting Members intending to vote personally bring with them to the Annual General Meeting the letter accompanying their form of proxy or failing that, details of their policy numbers and some means of identification. Holders of proxies should bring with them to the Annual General Meeting details of the policy numbers in respect of which they have been appointed proxy and some means of identification. On arrival at the Annual General Meeting, please register with the officials who will be at the door. Registration will commence at 10.00 a.m.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver

NCL LIMITED
Registered number 2336866
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Equities extend their gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AB InBev	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Carlsberg	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Heineken	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Interbrew	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Kaiser Brewery	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Miller Brewing	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Pilsener Beer	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stout & Porter	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Wine & Spirits	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Yeast & Hops	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	Bank of America	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Citigroup	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	JP Morgan Chase	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Wells Fargo	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Bank of New York	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Bank of Montreal	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Bank of Toronto	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Bank of Scotland	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Bank of Ireland	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Bank of Wales	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	Asahi Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Beck's Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Carlsberg Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Heineken Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Interbrew Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Kaiser Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Miller Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Pilsener Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stout & Porter Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Wine & Spirits Breweries	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	Bechtel	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Skanska	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

ELECTRICITY

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	Edison	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Hydro	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Nuclear	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Renewable	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Coal	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Gas	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Oil	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Water	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Waste	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Other	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	Intel	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Microsoft	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Apple	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	IBM	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Oracle	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	SAP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Siemens	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Siemens	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Siemens	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Siemens	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

ENGINEERING

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

CHEMICALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	Basell	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Dow Chemical	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Eastman Chemical	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Exxon Chemical	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Lyondell	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Occidental Chemical	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Phillips Chemical	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Shell Chemical	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stellantis	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Wacker	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

DISTRIBUTORS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

LEISURE & HOTELS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

HEALTHCARE

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E

HOUSEHOLD GOODS


1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5

1997 High Low Company Price % CHG P/E


INSURANCE

1997 High	Low	Company	Price	% CHG	P/E
45.00	44.00	AMEC	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Parsons	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Stantec	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	Tetra Tech	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	URS	44.50	+0.50	12.5
45.00	44.00	WSP	44.50	+0.50	

At the



THE SUNDAY TIMES



AUSTRALIA



MUSIC 1

Musical thrills, backstage spills: Britten's Aldeburgh Festival reaches its fiftieth year



MUSIC 2

Garsington revives a rare Haydn opera, but the neighbours make their point too

THE TIMES ARTS



RISING STAR

Katherine Hunka prepares to play the solo violin in a rediscovered Britten concerto



TOMORROW

How is Whoopi's latest? Read Geoff Brown on all the top new movies and videos

As Aldeburgh prepares for its 50th festival, Marion Thorpe tells Richard Morrison how it all began

At the court of King Ben



Touch of genius: Britten at the piano (with the young Marion Thorpe turning the pages) joins the Amadeus String Quartet in a performance at the 1952 Aldeburgh Festival

I was born out of frustration. Benjamin Britten, brilliant young composer, was tired of fitting into lesser mortals' visions. His relationship with Glyndebourne, which had premiered *The Rape of Lucretia* and *Albert Herring*, was increasingly fraught. But without a home theatre his English Opera Group was condemned to a precarious nomadic existence. Indeed, it was on a trek to the Lucerne Festival, while contemplating a probable deficit of £3,000 (a huge loss in 1947), that the tenor Peter Pears, Britten's lover, uttered the fateful words: "Why not make our own festival?"

Thus began the Aldeburgh Festival, which on Friday opens its doors for the 50th consecutive year. Britten has been dead for 20 years; Pears for 11. Some argue that the festival should have fallen silent too: that Aldeburgh without Britten is truly a hamlet without its prince. In *Time & Concord*, a fine new collection of Aldeburgh reminiscences, John Amis poignantly recalls that during early festivals the town hummed with musicians "as it never would in future years". Now even the town council of

this smug Suffolk borough snubs its greatest resident: last year it turned down a plan for a Britten statue.

Yet the festival rolls on. Its standards remain impeccable. Its premieres weighty (a new Mark-Anthony Turnage double-bill opens the 1997 festival); its centrepiece — the beautiful *Malmgrens* amid Snape's reed marshes — is still a vital focus of East Anglian cultural life.

And not all links with its glory years are broken. Marion Thorpe, for instance, is still closely involved as a trustee of Britten's estate, which lavishly funds the festival. It is hard to imagine anyone better fitted to keeping the flame alive.

"I don't remember the first time I met Britten," she says. "He came to Vienna in the 1930s when he wanted to study with Alban Berg, and had lunch at our house. But I was too young to remember."

However, when her family fled to Britain in 1938 her father (Erwin Stein, a distinguished musical all-rounder) took a job with Boosey and Hawkes and became Britten's editor and mentor.

"After Ben returned from America, during the war, he would spend a lot of time at our home. One was bowled over by his music and by him."

It seemed wonderful to have a festival where the main figure was a great composer and performer?



In 1944 we had a fire in our flat and nowhere to live. Ben suggested we move into his apartment in St John's Wood. For several years we shared a house with him and Peter.

By then Marion Thorpe was studying piano at the Royal College of Music. "My father and Ben would play piano-duet versions of the Mahler symphonies. That was their shared love. My father had met Mahler, and Ben was one of the first people in Britain to appreciate his music. And it was in St John's Wood that preparations were made for the premiere of *Peter Grimes*. I heard it coming to life on the piano. It was as if a new world had opened; the war was over, and here was a great new English opera."

Britten hated big institutions, hated London, and hated London music critics. He also hated not being in control of his premieres. That was why he jumped at Pears's Aldeburgh plan. Even so, didn't the idea of starting a highbrow festival in a small seaside town seem bizarre? "No," says Marion Thorpe. "It seemed wonderful to have a festival rooted in Ben's home soil. Not just another big bazaar like Salzburg, but one where the central figure was a great composer-performer. And the marvellous thing was that those concerts in the little Jubilee Hall were of a very high quality, such as one has probably not heard since."

The festival was not trouble-free. First there was opposition

from Aldeburgh's dominant golfing and sailing crowds ("Hearties v. Arties", a wag remarked). The whiff of homosexuality around the festival didn't exactly help; this was the Fifties. Then there were natural disasters: the 1953 flood, the 1969 fire which wrecked the newly converted Maltings.

All this the festival triumphantly overcame. But there was something that could not be easily countered: the accusation that Aldeburgh was like an imperial court governed by a clique who ruthlessly decided whether a performer was "in" or "out". Britten certainly attracted giant collaborators: Richter, Fischer-Dieskau and Rostropovich were Aldeburgh regulars. But musicians, librettists and even administrators (such as Marion Thorpe's first husband, Lord Harewood) who displeased the master were ejected from the charmed circle and referred to as "corpses". In *Time & Concord* Sir Charles Mackerras recalls memories "both pleasant and unpleasant" of the festival. He was banished for joking about the number of boys in *Noyes Fludde*.

Not surprisingly, Marion Thorpe is fiercely loyal to Britten, citing friendships with potential rivals such as Shostakovich ("no jealousy at all"). "Of course he could get cross about a bad performance. And he was extremely sensitive to criticism himself. We always said that he had fewer skins than most people. But the idea of the festival was really to have fun." Nor will she comment publicly on the lurid Humphrey Carpenter biography, which portrays Britten as a deeply twisted pervert, though she says that "some books have simply not captured the man I knew".

What's indisputable is that Aldeburgh in Britten's day had a world-class status. Could it regain that? Perhaps, says Marion Thorpe. "The vital thing was that Ben was at the heart of the performances. I would like to see another great musician become the focal point. It's been talked about. Indeed it has. But this festival will surely only ever belong to one man, and he lies in Aldeburgh churchyard."

● The Aldeburgh Festival opens on Friday (01728 45343). *Time & Concord* is published by Autograph Books (01728 602216)

LONDON CONCERTS

Behind the screens

London Musici/
Stephenson
Queen Elizabeth Hall

NOT content with recruiting several hundred disadvantaged youngsters to the Albert Hall as performers — which they did in April for their *Miracles* presentation — Mark Stephenson and his London Musici brought an ambitious show of a different kind to the QEH last week. *Image, Music, Text* explored aspects of communication, in collaboration with the London College of Music and Media.

In a series of three short films made by students, and projected on a screen behind the players, the soundtrack was played live by the ensemble. *Only Connect* (directed by Amanda Rudman, music by Laura Ross) and *2 Letters* (direction and music both by Derek Nisbet) dealt competently with the subject, but the pick of the bunch was *Mayday* (directed by Sian Roderick, music by Daniel Giorgetti), which treated the events surrounding the recent general election with a wry humour and sense of drama nearly echoed in the score.

Preceding this was a suite from Michael Nyman's score for *Prospero's Books*, unfortunately short of its film context. Just about tolerable there.

Nyman's music is exposed for its vacuousness in the concert hall. The five movements have different titles, but the general idea is the same: harmonically crude, interminable ostinati on over-prominent strings with trite interjections on brass and wind.

By contrast, an excerpt from the classic film *Night Mail*, with W.H. Auden's text recited by Sam Parks, and Britten's score performed live, showed the craftsmanship of true professionals.

The programme began with Dominic Muldowney's *Out of the East*, a setting of poems by James Fenton. Allusively poetic, Fenton's verses deal with the horrors and brutality of war, while Muldowney matches their ironic tone with chansonier-like delivery (Mary Carewe was the able vocalist). Altogether a rich and potent brew.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Berkeley squared

Michael Berkeley
Portrait
Spitalfields, E1

FOR THE last three years, Spitalfields Festival has been run with vision by Michael Berkeley, Anthony Payne and Judith Weir, three composers who have introduced an astonishing range of music to Hawksmoor's sepulchral Christ Church. Focal points have been the Composer's Portrait concerts hosted by one of the artistic directors, and the first two of three programmes featuring Berkeley this season formed an attractive double-bill.

Berkeley, who has found inspiration far and wide and responded with a varied output, was stimulated by the Spitalfields setting and his early musical experiences as a Westminster Cathedral chorister to frame his own works with sacred music of the Baroque period. Some of his earliest compositions were Latin motets, and the three included here all deserve to be regularly sung: the sensuous, French-sounding *Ego, Dilecto Meo*, the lush *Pater, Pater* and the vigorous, bell-like *In Splendoribus Sanctuarum*.

With the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble present for the Venetian sacred music he had selected, Berkeley was also

able to programme two of his works for brass quintet. *Fantastic Mind* is scored adventurously for narrator and brass, and Berkeley himself spoke the lines taken from the Earl of Rochester, the saucy 17th-century poet. The two poems which inspired this work, *A Song and Absence*, are darkly metaphysical, and Berkeley's score matches them with desolate effect.

Music from Chaucer, an earlier Berkeley work for brass, has been described by the composer as "unashamedly light", but each of the five movements fitted in well here.

The Joyful Company of Singers, directed by Peter Broadbent with Alastair Young at the organ, sang strongly in the Berkeley and had the warmth of a continental choir in the symmetrical programmes of Giovanni Gabrieli, Monteverdi and Palestrina, and Schütz, Bach and Scheidt.

JOHN ALLISON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
KATHERINE HUNKA

Age: 24.

Profession: Violinist. "But I prefer to think of myself simply as a musician. You can't be a good musician if you consider yourself only a fiddler. Real musicians get right inside the music, rather than satisfying their own egos."

She takes a broader view: "If you want to be an artist, then you have to open your eyes to the other arts. Developing mature musicianship takes a while. I'm not in any great

rush to stop studying and come home."

Where's home? London. Hunka began playing the violin at the age of four, led the National Youth Orchestra and was a prize-winning student at the Royal Academy of Music.

Where does she study now? Since last August with eminent teacher Mauricio Fuks at Indiana University, US. "Some of the finest musicians go to Bloomington to teach, so that attracts good students



who work terrifically hard. It's partly geographics: you are stuck in the middle of nowhere, so people practise all day."

It's rather intense, then? "Fuks is a 100 per cent big influence on me, but he makes me work like an absolute dog. So I come home to relax, and to do concerts."

When can we hear her? On Sunday at the Aldeburgh Festival, giving the world premiere of Britten's Double Concerto with the viola player Philip Dukes under Kent Nagano.

A Britten premiere? The full-length Double Concerto was written when he was 19 but only recently discovered. "It's early Britten, so quite romantic, a little quirky here, a bit daft there. At first I wondered if Britten would have wanted it done, but now I'm convinced it should be played."

Long-term goals? "I love my solo work, but need to be with other players too — musicians are wonderful to mix with. I just want to aim high."

JOHN ALLISON

A Haydn place with noises off

OPERA

Le pescatrici
Garsington

THE GLOVES are off at Garsington. Opponents of opera are not taking Leonard Ingrams's victory over local objections and the granting of seven years' planning permission lying down. During much of the first act of Haydn's comedy on Monday, a light aircraft buzzed the auditorium, doubtless engaged in some urgent crop-spraying. Later, a keen gardener decided that essential strimming could not be postponed. Only the short third act proceeded without an obligato of protest. Knowing how these village feuds develop, I imagine Ingrams will have anti-aircraft batteries installed by next year.

Nor was that all: a new heating system threatened to stew the audience into somnolence, and illness in the cast had the stricken heroine silently mouthing her recitatives on stage while they were sung in a fruitily baritone from the pit. All of which did no great damage: *Le pescatrici* — "The Fishermen" — is early Haydn (1770) and not very good, and distractions of this nature did not come amiss.

This was the seventh Haydn opera to be given at Garsington, and quite right too: he was, after all, one of the first practitioners of country-house opera. Some of the performance material was lost in a fire at Esterházy in 1779, and the conductor Wafiq Kani filled the gaps with music from his other operas. The amiable Goldoni libretto deals with a rustic community in

which a long-lost princess of Benevento is concealed; the plot is predictable, and the music is Haydn-by-the-yard, briskly conducted by Kani.

Luckily the producer, Robert David MacDonald, relied on the natural ebullience of the cast, which in the case of Aled Hall's merry fisherman, Frisellino, is ebullience in spades. You cannot turn Lady Otoline Morrell's terrace into an Italian fishing village, and the designer Colin Winslow hung a few nets about and put everyone into extremely pretty period costumes. The evening passed very pleasantly, which is what such evenings were — and are — for.

Even Haydn-by-the-yard is not easy to sing, and Lynne Davies, Nicole Tibbels and Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts joined Hall as the fisherfolk in dealing deftly with their high-flying music. The stricken, silent Patricia Bardon looked lovely on stage, and her actual arias were well sung from the pit by the mezzo Lore Lixenberg. Jozik Koc, as the visiting prince of Sorrento who sorts it all out, seized gratefully upon one of the few memorable arias. The garden looked absolutely lovely.

RODNEY MILNES

THE TIMES

AUSTRALIA

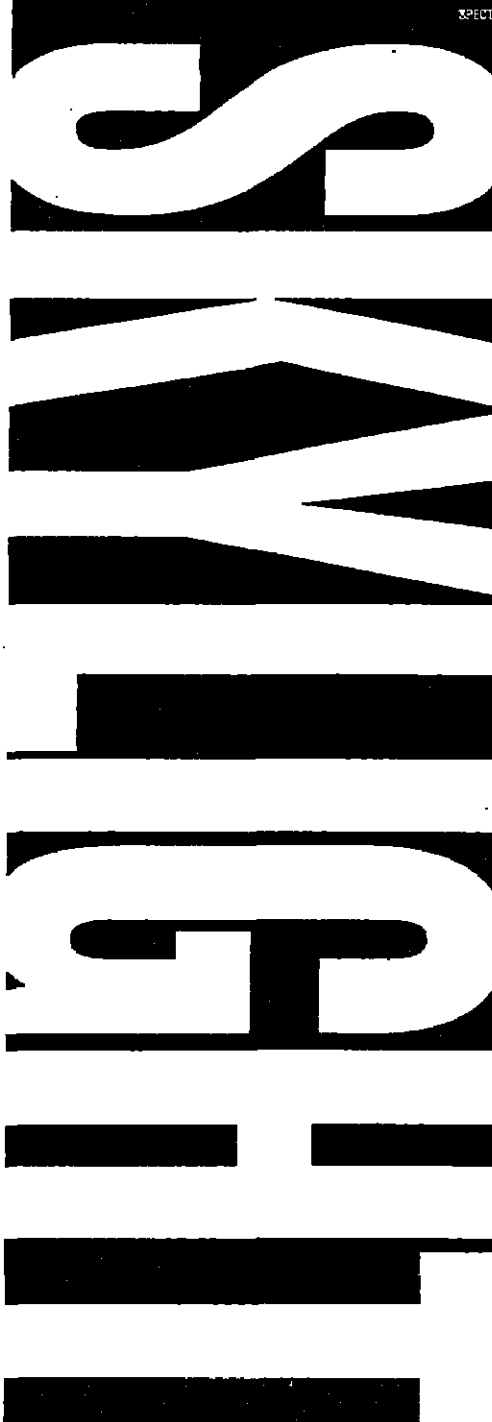
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Vaudeville Theatre

THEATRE 1



Leslie Caron turns on the old charisma to enchant Chichester as the writer George Sand

THEATRE 2



... while in Hampstead *All Things Considered* turns out to be an immensely enjoyable new play

THE TIMES ARTS

DANCE



Birmingham Royal Ballet brings a bouncy panorama of American life to Covent Garden

POP



Brazil's most popular singer, Maria Bethania, offers a breathless show to Drury Lane

THEATRE: Flawed tale of two lovers in Chichester; a cracking debut in Hampstead; and a fine Scottish team effort

Soppiness is a cigar called Sand

On the Minerva's darkened stage the glowing end of a cigar is the first we see of the seemingly ageless Leslie Caron. Then the lights go up and she is standing there with her back to us, puffing away, sporting a plum-coloured tail coat and thrusting her hands (without the cigar) deep into trouser pockets like a Dickens dandy. She is being George Sand née Aurore Dupin, novelist, proto-feminist and lover of the more famous Frédéric Chopin.

A giant manuscript of semi-quavers leaping from stave to stave in the key of A acts as a screen across the rear of the stage. A silver candelabra stands on the Bechstein. Caron faces us, paces the floor, scatters ash on the rugs, thus confirming George's defiance of convention, and begins to speak of her tempestuous life with Chopin. The French clarity of her open vowels still has the power to enchant, especially when followed by a sibilant, and, 40 or more years after *Lili* and *Gigi*, her manner and movement continue to suggest a paradoxically high-spirited gravity. It would be good to see her in a play, but instead we have Bruno Villien's assemblage of letters written by Sand and Chopin on matters to do with one another.

Nocturne for Lovers Chichester

All my previous knowledge of this couple's life together comes from the old Hollywood biopic, fatuously titled *A Song to Remember*, where Cornel Wilde played that Polonaise in all the concert halls of Europe until a drop of his tubercular blood splashed onto the keyboard and he died. Parisian society was at first too snooty to pay attention to this Polish youth, but Merle Oberon pretended that the famous Liszt was going to play to them and blew out all the candles to make the occasion more romantic. They listened in rapt attention, rapturously applauded, and then discovered that Cornel had changed places with Liszt under cover of darkness.

Well, Villien cannot include this clever trick because he has a company of only two to play with, but his Chopin is the able concert pianist David Abramovitz, unsmiling and suitably wraithlike, who coughs quietly and plays a round dozen of Chopin's works. Etudes, Mazurkas and the like — alas, not the immortal Polonaise — and a not very good song, *Si j'étais l'oiseau*, not well sung by Caron.

The chosen musical items continue the mood established by the accompanying letters, melancholy during the disastrous winter on Majorca, tempestuous when the relationship is breaking up. These are naturally good to hear, and the first half of this 90-minute show makes an agreeable entertainment, but then flaws become evident. Only once do the two write to each other, so that communication between them must rely on smouldering glances and the occasional exchange of flowers. Chopin writes scarcely anything to anyone, making the show reliant on Sand, who comments interestingly on events but whose scraps of philosophy are too. Added to which, Kado Kostzer's direction heaps on the heartbreak effects as though this was Hollywood in the Forties. Partly this is to give Caron something to do while Abramovitz is at work but, oh dear, she stands with arms outstretched against the semi-quavers when the screen turns blood-red, and is there again when he has passed on to that concert hall in the sky, hands pressed against the staves as though trying to find a way through a five-barred gate. Old-fashioned sopiness.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Suicide marks a debut to die for

Martin Esslin tells a tale of walking through London with Samuel Beckett. The sun was shining; they were about to watch a match at Lord's, and someone in the party cheerfully remarked that it was the sort of day that made one glad to be alive. "Hm," said the great dramatist, cricket lover and fatalist. "I wouldn't go as far as that."

David Freygan, the ethics professor at the centre of Ben Brown's immensely enjoyable play, would appreciate the story. There he is, with whisky, pills, plastic bag and elastic band, all ready for the final, logical jump Beckett could not bring himself to make; and suddenly, a friend materialises on the answering machine, followed by the knock on the door that proclaims the arrival of the electrician whom the university has hired to do the rewiring. "How's life?" ask both men, and do not pause for an answer.

You will not be surprised to hear that *All Things Considered* was first presented last year at Alan Ayckbourn's theatre in Scarbor-

All Things Considered Hampstead

ough. If Simon Gray were to launch a competing playhouse in downtown Scunthorpe, it would make an equally suitable offering. There were times when I was reminded of Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, in which a distraught wife makes a series of botched suicide attempts, and others when I thought of Gray's *Otherwise Engaged*, in which endless intruders deny a publisher the chance to listen privately to Wagner. But although Brown is only in his twenties, and this is his first full-length play, he writes with an assurance and command of the stage that cannot be borrowed or bought.

Christopher Godwin, gaunt and sad-eyed, is the rationalist who has decided that, with his loved ones gone and his big book published, life has nothing left to offer. Alan Strachan's cast also includes Michael Lumsden as a sexoholic col-

league. Holly Hayes as an American ethicist who supports capital punishment because it means "optimum organ distribution" for people needing spare-part surgery. Susie Blake as a lovelorn librarian. Timothy Kightley as a chaplain who thinks suicide is "not a very good example" to the young, and Jane Slavin as a brash journalist. The last is a bit over the top, yelling "you're dead" at David when he refuses to be interviewed about his former wife's insulting memoirs and then returning to ask even more impertinent questions about self-slaughter, but that is forgivable, given the hilarious misunderstandings that occur between them.

Does Brown reconcile humour with pain, as Ayckbourn and Gray sometimes do, and both with philosophical musings about life and death, as Michael Frayn has done? Not always, perhaps. Some may find the play cold, some will wish it deeper. But, my goodness, this is a cracking debut.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



The seemingly ageless Leslie Caron as the writer George Sand in *Nocturne for Lovers* at Chichester

A licence to thrill

IN THE city there are eight million stories. David Greig's new Edinburgh-set play for those reinvented political veterans, the 7:84 company, tells half a dozen of them and weaves the separate strands to sum up the hopes, dreams and fears of a nation in flux.

The unseen deity who provides a focus for all this is Sean Connery, probably Scotland's most successful export next to whisky. Rumoured to be staying at the capital's top hotel, he sets local heads and hearts alight. Frustrated blue-rinsed matron Eppie wants to recapture a girlhood memory, and forms an unholy

Caledonia Dreaming Edinburgh

alliance with Darren, a high-falutin' boy from a local estate with dreams of leaving.

Stuart is a new Labour MEP whose mission is to transform Edinburgh from Toytown into an Olympic city. He attempts to enlist Lauren, a sauna worker, into his grand schemes. Used to making men's dreams real, she spurs his dirty money, and finds some kind of salvation with Jerry, a would-be Sinatra.

Then there's Lawrence, the unseen taxi driver who shunts them from station to station, with dreams of his own. In between all this are a series of upfront state-of-the-nation addresses from an elliptical word-playing chorus who mercifully ditch clapped-out polemic in favour of subtlety and style.

Whereas Greig's previous outings boldly voyaged to a series of unnamed East European outposts, *Caledonia Dreaming* brings everything back on home, Iain Reekie's slick production (at the Traverse) guides a fine, five-strong ensemble gently round the highways and byways of lyrical, impressionistic monologue until they meet at the crossroads. Billy Boyd, Anne Kidd, John Macaulay, Neil McKinnon and Jill Riddiford rise to the occasion with sensitivity and grace. Evelyn Barbour's playbox set is a delight, while David Young's soundtrack skirts the kitsch to be evocative and moving. Scotland the Brave? Aye, all that and more.

NEIL COOPER

Touring America on the fly

The triple bill which opened Birmingham Royal Ballet's Covent Garden season on Monday night could have been called "Images of America". For whether by design or accident, the three works — all of them new to London — tell a tale of 20th-century American life.

Oliver Hinde, a young BRB house choreographer, is inspired by the Jazz Age in his newest work, *Bright Young Things*. His choice of music is excellent — Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F — and his jazz-inflected classical dance language is impressively fluent. But as an evocation of New York nightlife in the Roaring Twenties, *Bright Young Things* is pretty timid.

The slight scenario houses two contrasting female leads: Leticia Muller is the masculine cross-dresser, the woman in a dark suit; Monica Zamora is the ultra-feminine vamp, the woman in a white dress. The men they dance with (Sergiu Pobereznic, Joseph Cipolla and Chi Cao) are a nondescript trio of lads on the town.

Hinde fills his nightclub setting

DANCE Birmingham Royal Ballet Covent Garden

with eight more couples and plenty of gushing choreography but without achieving the brilliance of effect that Ashton did in *La Valse* 40 years ago.

As for the leads, Zamora is too gamine to be sultry, but Muller waltzes away with all the honours, courtesy of a voluptuous and sparky performance. David Blight's black on black designs only contribute to the general lassitude.

The image of America evoked by Lila York's *Sanctum* is also a dark one, but this time it is the dehumanising black hole of technology. Although inspired in part by Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*, *Sanctum* is very much a ballet of the computer age. Robert Parker (impressively good) is the man in the middle of a struggle between nature and machine, humiliated by mad

doctors and manhandled by automata before emerging into a new dawn of human warmth.

Set to contrasting scores by Ravel (the second movement of his Piano Concerto in G) and by the contemporary American composer Christopher Rouse, *Sanctum*'s language is well-developed and varied, with frenetic confusion and skittish desperation given strong choreographic shape. But York's peace and love ending does not quite manage to avoid the pitfall of facile statement.

David Bintley's *The Nutcracker Sweeties* is all about the America of Broadway. The infectious music is by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn (after Tchaikovsky, of course), and played live by the brilliant Echoes of Ellington ensemble. The cast of characters includes pom-pom girls, drum majorettes, sailors, GIs, Candy Kane and Sugar Rum Cherry. Is it any wonder *Nutcracker Sweeties* has turned out to be such a big hit?

DEBRA CRAINE

Concise Latin lessons

JAZZ

earth mother. Her voice switched imperiously from sambas to well-crafted soft-rock and sumptuous ballads. Lifting, low-key numbers such as *Ambar* — the title song of her recent gem of an album — formed the ideal vehicle for her subtle inflections.

Though her eight-piece band's firepower would sometimes have been better suited to a larger venue, its sheer musicianship was beyond reproach, violin and cello delicately integrated into an ensemble directed by guitarist Jaime Alem.

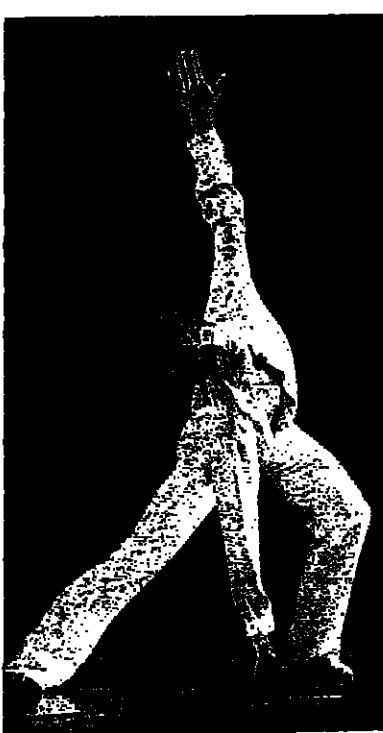
It was the turn of the

Cubans and their dance floor allies to besiege Ronnie Scott's for the one-night stand by Ruben Gonzalez. Thanks to the London-based World Circuit label, the septuagenarian pianist has just released a debut solo disc — simply called *Introducing Ruben Gonzalez* — that is sure to be counted as one of the recordings of the year.

The dapper Gonzalez is said to suffer from arthritis in the fingers but there was precious little sign of it in this set. Bass player Orlando Lopez anchored a first-rate band that blended the rhythms of the guaracha and the danzon with an unfussy jazz sensibility.

Gonzalez can lock into hypnotic salsa patterns when required, but his real strength lies in the long string of lush, rhythmically alert chords that tumble virtually the entire length of the keyboard. If Erroll Garner had been raised in Havana, he might have sounded like this.

CLIVE DAVIS



Victim of technology: David Justini in Lila York's *Sanctum*

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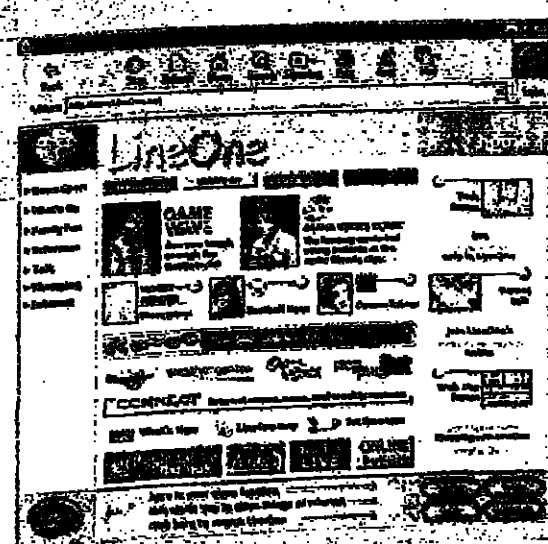
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A bright enthusiastic person required to work in busy office. Must be computer literate and have a clean driving licence. Applications to: Miss Catherine C.V. to Sullivan Thomas Ref GDMB 19 Bedford Road, London SW17 7BQ

FULHAM

Bright confident secretary needed for exciting opportunity in dynamic property company. Excellent presentation and telephone manner essential. Competitive salary offered. Please call 0171 381 4888 Ref SA or JH NO AGENCIES

LADY MARGARET C.O.F.E. GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, PARSONS GREEN, SW4 4UN.

Well-presented, pleasant, motivated to join busy office team, to work full-time hours only. Must possess good WP skills and be able to work under pressure. Telephone 0171 724 7130 for further information.

SECRETARY/BUSINESS MANAGER

To run successful business business (not mentioned) in 2nd London. Day to day control and responsibility. Opportunity to earn higher than salary offered, by way of bonus, based on level of productivity achieved. Supervisory ability. Excellent oral & computer skills. 160 Office. Please apply to Box No 5596

JUNIOR SECRETARY

Position on great well-known Junior Sec. to assist Chairman's PA. A superb opportunity to learn at the top. Shortlisted candidates: £11,000 + free lunch. 0171 493 2888 Heritage Rec.

Senior Secretary

£17,572 - £20,430 pa

The BMA is the doctors' professional association, and provides a wide range of services to its members.

We are looking for an experienced legal secretary with good organisational skills to provide support to the Head of the Legal department and supervise three departmental secretaries.

Applicants should have formal secretarial training, at least 2 years' relevant experience and fast, accurate audio wordprocessing skills (Wordperfect 5.1/6.1). A confident telephone manner is essential.

Please apply in writing, enclosing CV to: Human Resources Department, British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

We are unable to acknowledge all applications and only those selected for interview will be contacted.

Closing date: 20th June 1997



CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Salary Range £18,000-£20,000

AMREF is Africa's largest health care charity working in 20 countries and incorporating the East African Flying Doctors Service.

We need an experienced PA to run all aspects of fundraising and office management. This is an exciting opportunity for a well organised, good communicator to move into fundraising and make a significant contribution.

You will work in the London office in partnership with the Director and will be responsible for developing our existing fundraising capability. You will be energetic, hard working and committed to the challenge of generating increased income.

You will be computer literate and will have managed a database, and ideally will have some experience of fundraising, donor relations and working with volunteers.

There will be opportunity for travel to Africa. If you feel ready to meet this fundraising challenge, please write with CV to: Alexander Herroys, Director AMREF UK, 11 Old Queen Street, LONDON SW1H 9JA. Closing date: 26 June 1997

APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY / ADMINISTRATOR FOR BUSY FERTILITY & GYNAECOLGY PRACTICE

Harley Street

We are looking for an outgoing person, preferably with a medical background, to fill this administrative role. The post involves frequent telephone contact with patients, promotion of the Clinic's activities and co-ordination of the secretarial and medical staff.

An ability to work under pressure is necessary as the Clinic operates an extremely busy programme. Excellent secretarial skills required, including fast shorthand. Familiarity with Word Perfect for Windows important and particular expertise in secretarial computer systems would be an advantage.

Salary circa £20,000 p.a. (negotiable) with the terms of two references to Mrs P. Hartmann, London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, Coventry House, 112A Harley Street, London, W1N 1AF or Tel: 0171 244 5102

up to £17,000.

Freely provided? No experience? Looking for your first job? You're lucky to go and would like to get into marketing and advertising work for fun? The very exciting, fast-paced and creative world of advertising is open to you. You can be a very happy person to accept their 100 ways to do things with projects and provide some creative support - you must have 40 hours' typing. The projects are incredible if you're used to start doing quickly and they will encourage you every step of the way. You'll be 22 hours with good computer literacy, a strong personality and an absolutely essential sense of humour - call us immediately.

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RACING: FRENCH 2,000 GUINEAS WINNER HEADS BETTING FOR ST JAMES'S PALACE STAKES

Daylami favoured for Ascot showdown

By CHRIS McGRATH

IN A summer of giddy revivalism for British sport, bookmakers yesterday offered a sobering — and characteristic — correction of perspective. Ladbrokes, opening a book on the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot next Tuesday, has taken an unsentimental view of the merit of last month's 2,000 Guineas, won by Entrepreneur.

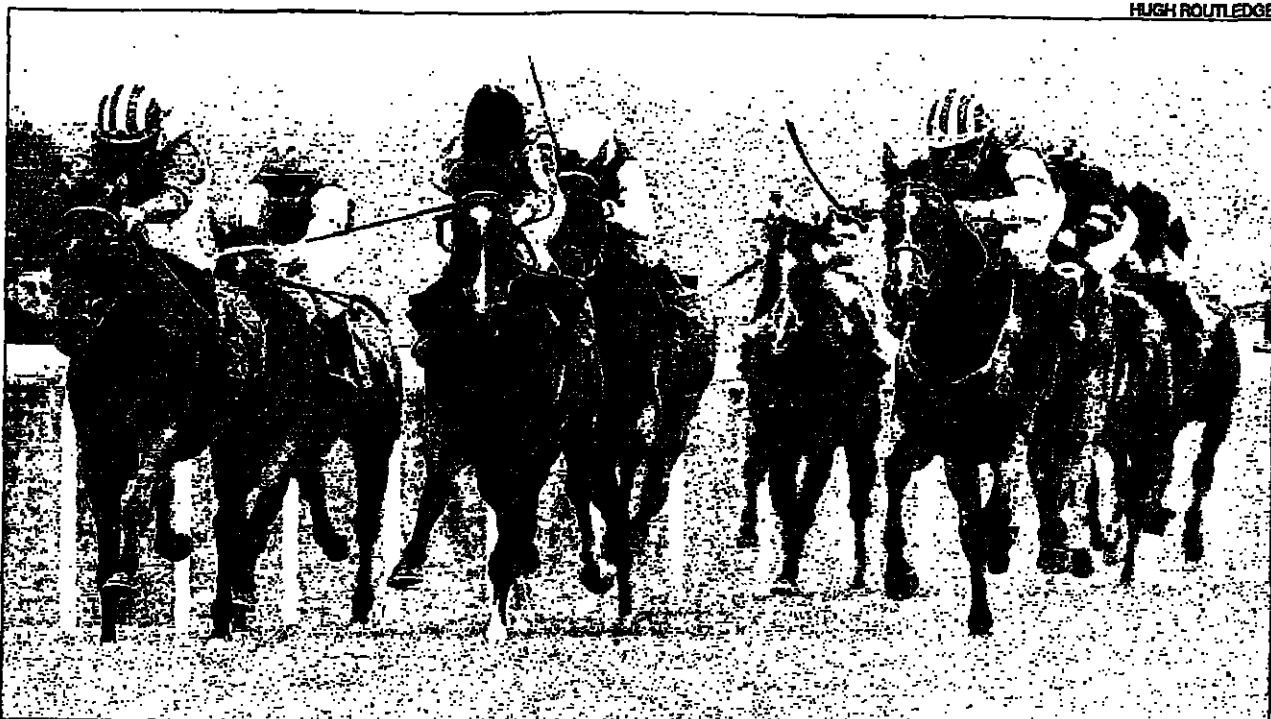
Daylami, flamboyant winner of the French equivalent, shades favouritism at 9-4 over

RICHARD EYANS

Nap: MR SPONGE (4.20 Salisbury)
Next best: Whirlaway (6.40 Newmarket)

the Irish 2,000 Guineas winner, Desert King (5-2), while the Luca Cumani-trained Poteen, a close third at Newmarket, is available at 4-1.

Desert King will be seeking to ignite once more the fortunes of Michael Tabor, who suffered a spectacular setback with Entrepreneur. The Newmarket runner-up, Revogue, has also run below expectations since and will miss Ascot in favour of being prepared for the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood.



Gift Token, right, storms home to initiate a 440-1 double for Kieren Fallon at Salisbury yesterday

After Poteen, Ladbrokes rates the unlucky Newmarket fifth, Zamindar, a 5-1 chance, and the fourth, Starborough, 6-1. Starborough gave the Guineas form some embellishment when winning in France, but connections suggested that he had improved for going round a bend. That is precisely where

Michael Stoute, Entrepreneur's trainer, and Tabor are being driven by the media, picking through the ashes of their Epsom dreams. Stoute was yesterday still awaiting the result of various checks on the horse.

Fresh from a rather more glorious failure, on the other side of the Atlantic the same

day, is Gary Stevens, caught close home aboard Silver Charm when reaching boldly for the first American Triple Crown since Affirmed in 1978.

Affirmed's jockey, Steve Cauthen, became a great champion in Britain, and yesterday Stevens had his role model in mind when flying in for a ten-day stay — laying the

foundations, not only for an annual visit to Ascot, but also for a more prolonged stint in the future.

Stevens, 34, tempted by an offer from André Fabre ten years ago, is clearly intent on a change from the repetitive American circuit before retirement. "I've always promised myself that, before the end of

my career, I will make a lengthy stay in Europe," he said. "Where I'd be based, and when it will happen, I don't know."

Among 4,000 career wins, Stevens can number the 1995 Kentucky Derby for Tabor (aboard Thunder Gulch), and last year's Canadian International for Stoute (Singspiel). With a question mark over the future of Walter Swinburn, whose struggle to control his weight has enforced an indefinite sabbatical — Stevens might find the perfect opportunity looming sooner rather than later.

The royal meeting has attracted an entry of 17 European classic winners, who are in turn expected to prompt the entry of 250,000 racegoers. Those who stay at home will, as a result of a new deal, be able to watch proceedings on BBC for another three years. But they may detect a significant change of tone.

Malcolm Kemp, the new executive producer of racing, revealed that Julian Wilson will share presentation with Clive Balding — "very much in a 50-50 role".

Balding has appeared as a natural in her limited television roles to date. Her promotion, intruding into Wilson's territory, is integral to Kemp's undertaking to seek a "lighter" tone.

YARMOUTH

THUNDERER
2.10 Ashe, 2.40 Shawdon, 3.10 Venture Capitalist, 3.40 Lasham, 4.10 Rambold, 4.40 Sharpwitted, 5.10 Princess Of Hearts.

Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 AURELIAN (nap), 2.40 Shawdon, 4.40 Tiffner.

GOING: FIRM DRAW: 6F-1M, HIGH BEST SIS

2.10 CHARTER HANDICAP

(3-Y-O; £3,018; 1m 6f 17y) (10 runners)

1 (5) 051 EPONOME (5) M. D. Dawson 9-9 (nap) J. F. Egan 91
2 (2) 252 HIGH ON TOP (3) P. A. Shawdon 9-7 M. Roberts 88
3 (1) 123 ASHES (5) M. D. Dawson 9-6 D. Holland 86
4 (1) 124 JORDAN (5) M. D. Dawson 9-5 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 522 JORDAN (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 84
6 (1) 001 AURELIAN (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 83
7 (1) 002 AURELIAN (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 82
8 (1) 003 AURELIAN (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 81
9 (1) 004 AURELIAN (5) M. D. Dawson 9-0 M. Roberts 80
10 (1) 005 AURELIAN (5) M. D. Dawson 8-9 M. Roberts 79

7-2 Juchas, 9-2 Epone, 1-2 High On Top, 4-1 Ashe, 6-1 Ashes.

2.40 EBF RIVER BURE NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES

(2-Y-O; £3,210; 6f 3y) (5 runners)

1 (1) 001 SHAWDON (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 SHAWDON (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 SHAWDON (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 SHAWDON (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 005 SHAWDON (5) M. D. Dawson 9-0 M. Roberts 84

1-2 Shawdon, 1-2 Great Mole, 10-1 Big Wolf, 16-1 others.

3.10 RADIO NORFOLK CONDITIONS STAKES

(£4,768; 6f 3y) (4 runners)

1 (1) 001 SPANISH STRIPPER (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 SPANISH STRIPPER (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 SPANISH STRIPPER (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 SPANISH STRIPPER (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 85

4-5 Venture Capitalist, 5-2 Mole, 1-1 Juchas, 16-1 Spanish Stripper.

3.40 TOLLHOUSE SELLING STAKES

(2-Y-O; £2,187; 7f) (7 runners)

1 (1) 001 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-7 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-6 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-5 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 005 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 84
6 (1) 006 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 83
7 (1) 007 LASHAM (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 82

5-4 Lasham, 11-4 Callum, 3-1 The Hobby Lobby, 8-1 Filina, 10-1 others.

4.10 POTTER HEIGHAM HANDICAP

(£2,914; 6f 3y) (8 runners)

1 (1) 001 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-7 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-6 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-5 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 005 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 84
6 (1) 006 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 83
7 (1) 007 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 82
8 (1) 008 PRIMA LUNA (5) M. D. Dawson 9-0 M. Roberts 81

8-4 Prima, 5-4, 7-2 Big Pigeon, 12-2 Pigeon, 10-1 others.

4.40 WEATHERBYS ECLIPSE PEDIGREE MAIDEN FILLES STAKES

(3-Y-O; £3,582; 7f 3y) (7 runners)

1 (1) 001 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-7 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-6 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-5 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 005 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 84
6 (1) 006 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 83
7 (1) 007 BLAZER'S BART (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 82

1-2 Shapwitted, 4-1 Tiffner, 4-1 Toppet, 14-1 Moon Fairy, 25-1 others.

5.10 HORMING FILLES HANDICAP

(3-Y-O; £3,944; 1m 2f 21y) (10 runners)

1 (1) 001 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-7 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-6 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-5 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 005 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 84
6 (1) 006 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 83
7 (1) 007 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-1 M. Roberts 82
8 (1) 008 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 9-0 M. Roberts 81
9 (1) 009 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 8-9 M. Roberts 80
10 (1) 010 CAMBRIDGE TOPAZ (5) M. D. Dawson 8-8 M. Roberts 79

3-1 Princess, 4-1 Topaz, 4-1 Topaz, 14-1 Moon Fairy, 25-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M. Johnson, 8 winners from 36 runners, 22.2%
Chambers, 8 from 37, 21.4%
Gordon, 8 from 38, 21.1%
Hodges, 8 from 39, 20.5%
Hodges, 8 from 40, 20.0%
Hodges, 8 from 41, 19.5%
Hodges, 8 from 42, 19.0%
Hodges, 8 from 43, 18.6%
Hodges, 8 from 44, 18.2%
Hodges, 8 from 45, 17.8%
Hodges, 8 from 46, 17.4%
Hodges, 8 from 47, 17.0%
Hodges, 8 from 48, 16.6%
Hodges, 8 from 49, 16.2%
Hodges, 8 from 50, 15.8%

NEWMARKET

THUNDERER
8.40 Polyphony, 7.10 Arakaw Cay, 7.40 Sharp 'N' Shady, 8.10 Formidable Flame, 8.40 Smart Spirit, 9.10 Abco Horn.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

6.40 JUPITER LIMITED STAKES

(£3,558; 1m 6f 17y) (6 runners)

1 (1) 001 CHATHAM ISLAND (5) M. D. Dawson 9-7 M. Roberts 88
2 (1) 002 CHATHAM ISLAND (5) M. D. Dawson 9-6 M. Roberts 87
3 (1) 003 CHATHAM ISLAND (5) M. D. Dawson 9-5 M. Roberts 86
4 (1) 004 CHATHAM ISLAND (5) M. D. Dawson 9-4 M. Roberts 85
5 (1) 005 CHATHAM ISLAND (5) M. D. Dawson 9-3 M. Roberts 84
6 (1) 006 CHATHAM ISLAND (5) M. D. Dawson 9-2 M. Roberts 83

BLINKERED FIRST TIME, Beverley, 2.00 Tafford and A Hall, 2.30 Master Barker, 3.00 Mares, 3.30 Spectator, 4.00 Mares, 4.30 Mares, 5.00 Mares, 5.30 Mares, 6.00 Mares, 6.30 Mares, 7.00 Mares, 7.30 Mares, 8.00 Mares, 8.30 Mares, 9.00 Mares, 9.30 Mares, 10.00 Mares, 10.30 Mares, 11.00 Mares, 11.30 Mares, 12.00 Mares, 12.30 Mares, 13.00 Mares, 13.30 Mares, 14.00 Mares, 14.30 Mares, 15.00 Mares, 15.30 Mares, 16.00 Mares, 16.30 Mares, 17.00 Mares, 17.30 Mares, 18.00 Mares, 18.30 Mares, 19.00 Mares, 19.30 Mares, 20.00 Mares, 20.30 Mares, 21.00 Mares, 21.30 Mares, 22.00 Mares, 22.30 Mares, 23.00 Mares, 23.30 Mares, 24.00 Mares, 24.30 Mares, 25.00 Mares, 25.30 Mares, 26.00 Mares, 26.30 Mares, 27.00 Mares, 27.30 Mares, 28.00 Mares, 28.30 Mares, 29.00 Mares, 29.30 Mares, 30.00 Mares, 30.30 Mares, 31.00 Mares, 31.30 Mares, 32.00 Mares, 32.30 Mares, 33.00 Mares, 33.30 Mares, 34.00 Mares, 34.30 Mares, 35.00 Mares, 35.30 Mares, 36.00 Mares, 36.30 Mares, 37.00 Mares, 37.30 Mares, 38.00 Mares, 38.30 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Two couples,
six bags,
928 miles
and still talking.



Oh, the things you saw, the food you ate, the places you stayed.
You stayed in a parador in Andalucia, you stayed in stables near Arles,
you stayed in the car for a thousand mad miles.

Was it really that far? Funny, it didn't seem it. The straights, the streets, the
twisting trails; your Mercedes C-class estate consumed them, as Autocar had so
defly put it, "with the kind of body control you expect from a sporting saloon."

The ride was superb, the handling assured, the space agreeable.

All that luggage, all those clothes you never wore, stayed out of the way in
the 665 litres of load space.

And the noise stayed out of the car, leaving you in agreement with Autocar's
verdict: "completely free of the resonances and drones that sometimes afflict
estate models, regardless of road surface."

Not that your Mercedes was entirely silent. There was the laughter, the chatter,
the schoolboy French. And your quiet, sad sigh, at journey's end.



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John 12/90

Norman happy to start in shadow of Woods

Conner takes the wheel during *Adela's* victory in the commemorative race round the Isle of Wight yesterday

Conner steers triumphant course

Among the other yachts in the race were *Mariette*, the 135ft Herreshoff schooner; *Sariyah*, a Sparkman and Stephens 135ft ketch, the 1914 *Fife*; *Sumurin*, and *America*, the 1967 replica of the yacht that won the original 100 Guinea Cup.

Moodie breezes in after change in the weather

SCORES

FIRST-ROUND LEADERS: 67: J Moore (Windyrhill), 72: S Maras (SA), A Sanchez (Sp), 73: S Amica (Fr), M Heberg (Sw), N Enari (Sweden).

74: C Ritson (Ormeau), S Cavallini (It), F Flemper (Holl), T Taylor (Sandford Springs), B Morgan (Wimbledon), E Ferguson-Baker (Deeade), E R Power (Killybeg), M Prieto (Sp), A Cathome (Can), K Macintosh (Aus), L Hordern (Auck), D Goss (Irish Hill), D Davis (Conwy, Coermannagh), 75: K M Juul (Den), K Burns (Clydebank & District), I Rosberg (Swe), M McKay (Tumbury), M Zelzmann (Holl)

76: C Grady (Bawburgh), W Warmingon (Sh), K Rossion (Catherine), S Wood (Aberdeen Ladies), A Tourment (Fr), N McPherson (Ire)

SCORES

FIRST-ROUND LEADERS: 67: J. Hefner (Minotyrill), 72: S. Marais (SA), A. J. van der Merwe (SA), 73: M. Hedberg (Swe), N. Evans (Plesington)
 68: C. Filson (Ormskirck), S. Cavallari (It), F. Lempers (Hol), N. Taylor (Sandford Springs), B. Morgan (Monmouth), E. P. van der Gledt (Johannesburg), R. P. Power (Giknam), M. Prieto (Sp), A. J. Eathome (Can), K. Macintosh (Aus), L. Kreutz (Fr), K. Burton (St George's Hill), L. Davis (Cornwall, Caernarfonshire), 75: K. L. van der Merwe (SA), 76: J. van der Merwe (SA), 77: J. van der Merwe (SA), 78: J. van der Merwe (SA), 79: J. van der Merwe (SA), 80: J. van der Merwe (SA), 81: J. van der Merwe (SA), 82: J. van der Merwe (SA), 83: J. van der Merwe (SA), 84: J. van der Merwe (SA), 85: J. van der Merwe (SA), 86: J. van der Merwe (SA), 87: J. van der Merwe (SA), 88: J. van der Merwe (SA), 89: J. van der Merwe (SA), 90: J. van der Merwe (SA), 91: J. van der Merwe (SA), 92: J. van der Merwe (SA), 93: J. van der Merwe (SA), 94: J. van der Merwe (SA), 95: J. van der Merwe (SA), 96: J. van der Merwe (SA), 97: J. van der Merwe (SA), 98: J. van der Merwe (SA), 99: J. van der Merwe (SA), 100: J. van der Merwe (SA)

TENNIS

Smith's win keeps the home fires burning

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia, the No. 4 seed, was hardly troubled in a 6-1, 6-1 win over Naoko Kijimuta, of Japan, while Ajine-Gaelle Sidot, of France, who is seeded No. 5, fought through 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 against Catalina Cristea, of Romania. There was also a second-round victory for Magdalena Maleeva, the No. 7 seed, from Bulgaria. She beat Lenka Cenkova, of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-1.

RUGBY LEAGUE: AUSTRALIANS EXPLOIT WEAKNESSES OF STRUGGLING RIVALS

British game gets wake-up call

Christopher Irvine
looks at the impact
of new world club
championship

The first truth is the obvious one: that rugby league, for all its divisions in Australia, is still the No 1 sport and draws a great wealth of talent. The development systems provide a conveyor belt of high-class players. Compared to the meritocracy in Australian, mediocrity grips the far smaller British game, with a few honourable exceptions. Although they narrowly lost home to Penrith on Monday, Bradford Bulls showed that they, too, can compete. And that gutsy defeats provide a great solace.

With the Rugby Football League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association still at loggerheads after more than 20 years, where will the lead come from? Old-style feudalism and parochial short-sightedness at club board level continue to stymie innovation.

Although Super League attendances are generally improved, full-time professionalism cannot really be afforded by most clubs. Debts are increasing and, more worryingly, players' greed has returned. The £87 million Super

**WORLD CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIP '97**

Just as the great adventure was becoming a nightmare, Wigan, the one British side that would not be out of place in the Australasian competition on present form, chalked up a triumph against Sydney-based Canterbury. Like Bradford, they faded towards the end, but had sufficient points in the bank — unlike the Bulls — to withstand a strong comeback.

assance are likely to continue. In introducing all 12 Super League clubs to trans-hemisphere competition, there is no hiding place. Mercifully, plans are already in train for an elite tournament next year to try to remove the stale predictability.

□ Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain and scrum half, will enter hospital this week for a hernia operation. He will miss the remaining home world club championship matches, against Cronulla, next Monday, and Penrith.

ATHLETICS

Holmes proves fitness with fine victory

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

While reports circulated that Holmes was injured again, these were discounted by Malcolm Arnold, the Great Britain head of coaching, when she was named in the European Cup team on Monday. She proved her fitness last night when she moved boldly to the front with 350 metres to go and won in a time which puts her into fifth place in the year's world rankings.

Following on the shoulders of the leader at the bell, reached in 58.25sec, Holmes resisted any temptation to rely on the sprint and, when she

The sixteenth anniversary of Sebastian Coe's 800 metres world record passed with a two-lap race as uneventful as any this season. In the absence of Wilson Kipketer, the Kenyan-born Dane who is expected to break Coe's record this season, nobody was prepared to commit to a fast run. David Kiptoo, from Kenya, won in 1min 45.25sec.

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CRICKET: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BRUSHED ASIDE IN SEMI-FINAL

Headley ushers Kent to their place at Lord's

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CANTERBURY (Northamptonshire won toss; Kent beat Northamptonshire by 66 runs)

FOR a club that has won neither of the knockout cups in 19 seasons, Kent's one-day cricket at present is irresistible. They gave themselves only a modest total to defend in this Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final yesterday but there was never much danger that 8,000 voluble supporters, the first of whom had begun queuing at 5am, would go home disappointed.

Dean Headley effectively decided the contest when he took Northamptonshire's first three wickets during a waspish spell with the new ball. Even in pursuit of a mere 207, there was no easy way back from 34 for three, especially in conditions that encouraged the bowlers throughout.

Kent had successfully chased more than 300 here in the quarter-final but this was a different game entirely. The ball swung and seamed for the quicker men, who also found occasional extra bounce, and when Paul Strang plied his wrist spin he was somewhere close to Utopia.

For all that, this was a wretched effort by Northamptonshire. Bottom of the county championship, their cricket continues to dismay. True,

they were without David Capel, who was sorely missed, and Mohammad Akram, but their seam bowling was wayward, their out-cricked flawed and their batting flimsy.

Since they last won this competition in 1978, Kent have been beaten in three finals, the most recent of them two summers ago. This was their 137th win in the 26 years of the Benson and Hedges Cup, making them numerically the most successful county, but their passionate members will now want something more tangible to celebrate at Lord's on July 12.

They will go there with every chance, even against Surrey, but will require a better start than they made yesterday. Rob Bailey decided to bowl first and David Follett

vindicated his decision by dismissing both Kent openers in his first two overs. Matthew Walker edged an attempted pull and Matthew Fleming carved a short one to point.

When Follett withdrew, nursing a side strain, his length was already awry. Kevin Curran was no better and, although Paul Taylor removed Fulton, the game was taken away from the visiting side by a century stand for the fourth wicket between Trevor Ward and Mark Ealham.

There is a paradox here. Ward is one of the best batsmen in England without a Test cap, and showed it once more with his clean, uncomplicated striking. Ealham, quite looks a Test cricketer but has already played ser-

viciously on three occasions. Ealham was cheered to the wicket, a returning hero, and it is a compliment to him that he did not suffer by comparison with Ward. This, however, was the only substantial partnership of the day and when Kent then lost four wickets for seven runs, two of them to foolish run-outs, even 200 looked beyond them. Yet Steve Marsh shepherded his men to something competitive before unleashing Headley.

If his fitness could be trusted for a five-day game, and at present there remains some doubt, Headley would join Mike Smith as a viable alternative to Devon Malcolm for the Lord's Test. He worked up a lively pace, gained sufficient movement to command respect and bowled a length to disconcert. Russell Warren's footwork was duly confused as he lost his middle stump to Headley's fourth ball.

Mal Loe and Curran followed quickly, both playing ferocious strokes, and when Tony Penberthy was well caught at slip, a heavy burden rested upon Bailey. He struck some powerful drives in that angular way of his but Martin McCague returned to have him caught behind and leave Northamptonshire forlorn at 79 for five. Strang, finding bounce and lavish turn, took the next four wickets and only John Embury's ritual defiance extended the affair.

CANTERBURY SCOREBOARD

KENT		NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	
M V Fleming c Walton b Follett	6	TR J Warren b Headley	4
M J Walker c Warren b Follett	4	M B Loe b Headley	4
D P Fulton c Embury b Taylor	17	R J Bailey c Marsh b McCague	33
T R Ward run out	78	K M Curran c Walker b Headley	51
P W Wells c Warren b Penberthy	1	A L Penberthy c Wells b Fleming	13
M A Ealham b Embury	41	T C Walton c Fulton b Strang	19
N J Long run out	0	D J Scales c Wells b Strang	15
Strang c sub b Taylor	2	J N Scales c Long b Strang	5
TS A Marsh not out	27	J E Embury not out	7
M J McCague not out	12	J P Taylor c Fulton b Strang	7
Extras (b 9, w 0, nb 2)	18	D Follett c Strang b Ealham	4
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	206	Total (46 wickets, 50 overs)	40

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-13, 3-56, 4-63, 5-63, 6-63, 7-64, 8-70, 9-70, 10-70, 11-70, 12-70, 13-70, 14-70, 15-70, 16-70, 17-70, 18-70, 19-70, 20-70, 21-70, 22-70, 23-70, 24-70, 25-70, 26-70, 27-70, 28-70, 29-70, 30-70, 31-70, 32-70, 33-70, 34-70, 35-70, 36-70, 37-70, 38-70, 39-70, 40-70, 41-70, 42-70, 43-70, 44-70, 45-70, 46-70, 47-70, 48-70, 49-70, 50-70.

BOWLING: McCague 10-0-30-1, Headley 10-0-36-3, Fleming 10-0-31-1, Strang 10-0-31-1, Embury 10-0-31-1, Scales 10-0-31-1, Taylor 10-0-31-1, Bailey 10-0-31-1, Curran 10-0-31-1, Loe 10-0-31-1, Warren 10-0-31-1, Marsh 10-0-31-1, Penberthy 10-0-31-1, Ealham 10-0-31-1, Long 10-0-31-1, Ward 10-0-31-1, Wells 10-0-31-1, Fulton 10-0-31-1, Fleming 10-0-31-1, Embury 10-0-31-1, Scales 10-0-31-1, Taylor 10-0-31-1, Bailey 10-0-31-1, Curran 10-0-31-1, Loe 10-0-31-1, Warren 10-0-31-1, Marsh 10-0-31-1, Penberthy 10-0-31-1, Ealham 10-0-31-1, Long 10-0-31-1, Ward 10-0-31-1, Wells 10-0-31-1, Fulton 10-0-31-1, Fleming 10-0-31-1, Embury 10-0-31-1, Scales 10-0-31-1, Taylor 10-0-31-1, Bailey 10-0-31-1, Curran 10-0-31-1, Loe 10-0-31-1, Warren 10-0-31-1, Marsh 10-0-31-1, Penberthy 10-0-31-1, Ealham 10-0-31-1, Long 10-0-31-1, Ward 10-0-31-1, Wells 10-0-31-1, Fulton 10-0-31-1, Fleming 10-0-31-1, Embury 10-0-31-1, Scales 10-0-31-1, Taylor 10-0-31-1, Bailey 10-0-31-1, Curran 10-0-31-1, Loe 10-0-31-1, Warren 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SAILING 43

Conner steers a winning line in classic encounter

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

RUGBY UNION 46

Lions call up Diprose for injured Quinell



British No 1 rediscovers winning touch against Richardson at Queen's

Henman ends the waiting game

By JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

BIBLICAL references to the wilderness tale of 40 days and 40 nights, but Tim Henman has been there longer. The man who has been hailed as the saviour of British tennis yesterday completed his first victory for more than 100 days when he brushed aside his compatriot, Andrew Richardson, after a hesitant start in the Stella Artois championships at Queen's Club.

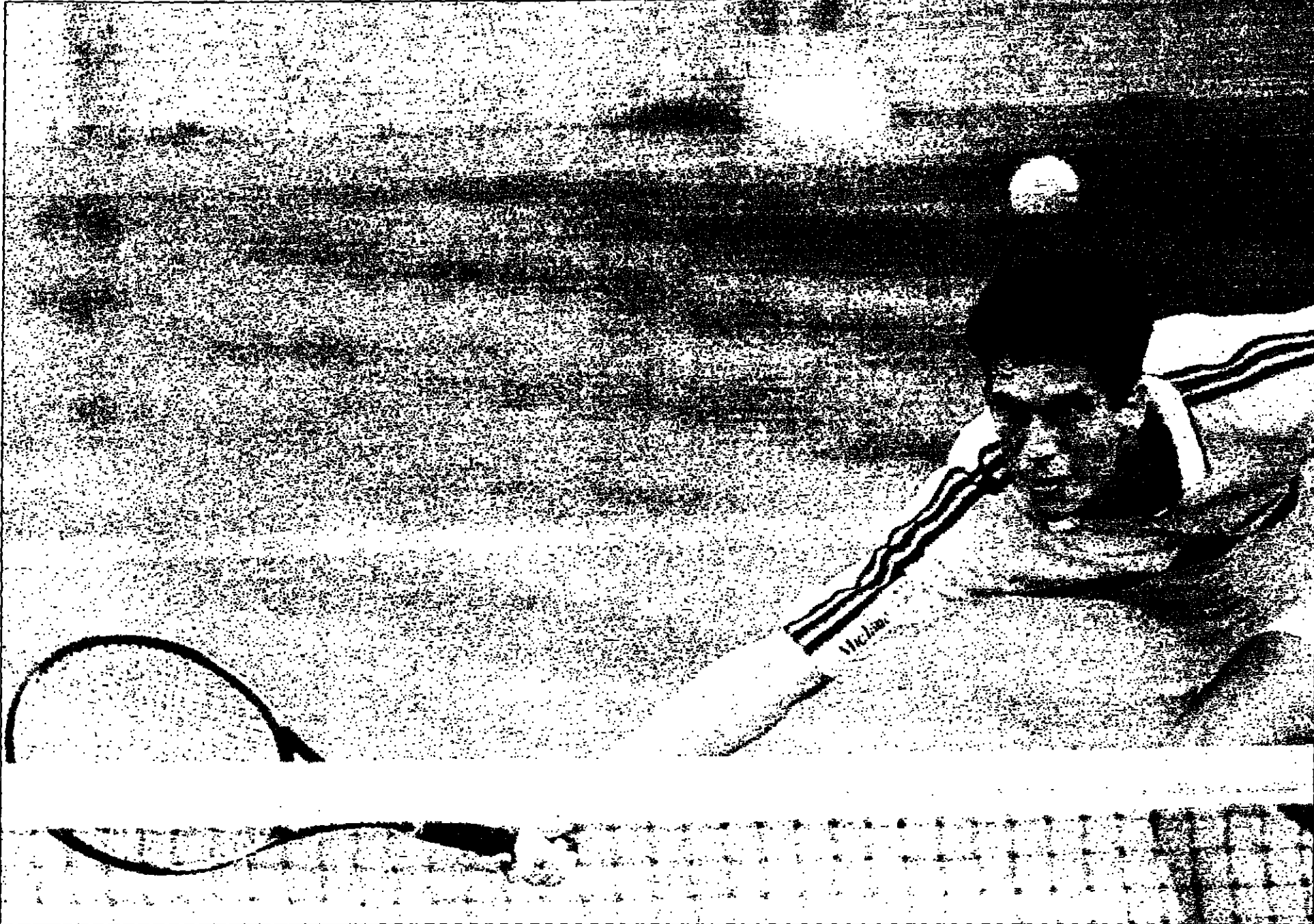
Henman prevailed in the first round of the Italian Open last month, but only after the stricken Spaniard, Roberto Carretero, withdrew through injury. So when Richardson dragged a backhand wide to succumb 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, Henman, the British No 1, was entitled to heave a sigh of relief. Such is the expectancy surrounding his Wimbledon prospects that he simply wanted to savour the winning feeling.

Nevertheless, this was hardly vintage Henman. In a

Queen's results 40
Home cheer 43

match of two distinct halves, the world No 22 alternated winners with unforced errors, aces with double faults, as Richardson capitalised on his opponent's wayward form. Indeed, in blustery conditions, a double fault cost Henman the very first game of the match. He negated the damage when a neat drop volley brought him level at 2-2, yet Richardson immediately conjured the break that was to claim him the opening set — in which opportunities against the serve punctuated seven of the first eight games.

It was loose, knockabout stuff. "At the beginning of the second set I knew I had to pull my finger out and raise my standard," Henman reflected. This he did in the fourth game, greatly aided by Richardson, who double-faulted at 30-30 before an overhauled approach handed Henman the initiative. The tide had turned: Henman promptly levelled the match, closing out the set with two successive aces.



Henman stretches for a forehand volley during his second-round victory over Richardson, his fellow Briton, at Queen's Club yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Henman, previously inhibited by nerves, was now showing glimpses of his best. Richardson had increasingly relied on his penetrative serve to keep him afloat, but his effort collapsed when a disputed line call at 30-30 derailed him at the start of the third set. He was to forfeit 12 of the next 13 points, and with them the

match. It was a measure of Henman's progress that he lost but one point in his four service games in the deciding set. Never before has he progressed beyond the second round at Queen's. He now meets Jens Knippschild, of Germany, for a quarter-final berth.

Henman acknowledged he was some way from his peak since deprived of much-needed match-play by an elbow injury. "I felt I imposed myself in the second and third sets," he said. "I loosened up and started to serve a lot better.

But I've got more improving to do — another 40 to 50 per cent maybe. It's difficult to quantify. I think I can serve better and I can definitely return better. Hopefully I will get there by Wimbledon. I need a few wins — everyone could see that."

On another fine day for home-grown talent, Martin Lee, the youngster from Essex, boldly hit himself into the third round — and a possible confrontation with Goran Ivanisevic, the No 3 seed — with a stirring defeat of Alex O'Brien, the No 13 seed, in

three keenly contested sets. Having disposed of Andrei Olhovskiy, who is ranked No 146 in the world, on Monday, Lee faced a more daunting opponent in O'Brien, who trades as the world No 34. It did not faze him in the slightest. The Briton, ranked 500th, appeared overawed in the first set, which he conceded on a service break in the sixth game. However, as he had against Olhovskiy, Lee rallied with rare gusto to level the contest after an immaculately played tie-break.

The match revolved entirely around the ninth game of the deciding set. Lee, 19, required three break points before, at full stretch, he seized the initiative with a rasping cross-court pass to reach 5-4. His confidence was now such that, with O'Brien deflated, a decisive service game seemed a formality. Lee duly obliged, serving out to love.

He can do better still. A ratio of first serves below 50 per cent hints at the scope he holds. Should he develop a stronger second serve, Lee will be well armed to progress quickly up the ranks. Whatever

his progress in this tournament, Lee, who headed the world junior rankings for four months last year, is almost certain to be accorded a wildcard entry to Wimbledon later this month. Yesterday, Richardson was among 11 Britons named in the first batch.

In the match involving Greg Rusedski, Britain's other representative in the singles, rain interrupted play last night with Rusedski inseparable from Mark Woodforde, of Australia, the scores locked at one set all, one game all and deuce.

Transfer on hold as Babel goes for double the money

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MANCHESTER United will have to break their pay structure if they are to sign the Bayern Munich defender, Markus Babel. The 24-year-old German international said yesterday that he will remain with Bayern unless United more than double an offer that would have earned around £2 million over a three-year contract. Babel wanted a deal worth £15 million a season before agreeing to a £5 million switch.

It is likely that United will now concentrate on pressing Rangers' Danish striker, Brian Laudrup, away from Ajax. Laudrup spent yesterday in a meeting at the Jersey home of the Rangers chairman, David Murray, but it is understood that he is set on leaving.

The Italian defender, Sergio Porrini, signed a four-year contract with Rangers after completing a £3 million move from Juventus. The arrival of the 28-year-old central defender strengthens the club's Italian links after former Fiorentina player, Lorenzo Amoroso, signed last week.

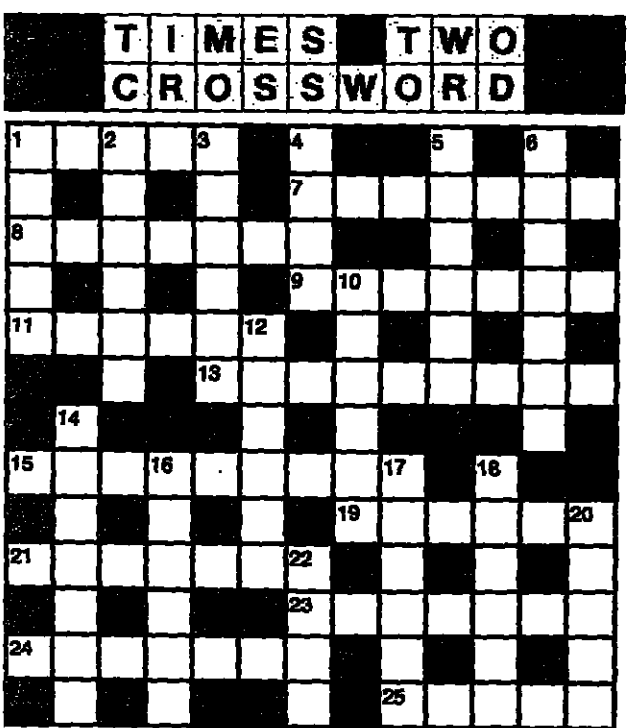
Terry Venables' future as the Australia coach could be thrown into doubt after his alleged involvement in transfers of international players to his club, Portsmouth. Several Australian clubs are to complain to the Soccer Australia board.

Venables denied he has acted in an underhand manner and said: "There's no conflict in me being chairman of Pompey and coach of the Australian national side."

"Terry Fenwick [the manager] has made the decisions on these players. I just sent him some tapes of the players."

The Leicester City winger, Jamie Lawrence, joined Bradford City yesterday in a £50,000 deal. Lawrence, 27, signed a two-year contract at Valley Parade after passing a medical. As part of the deal, Leicester, who paid 175,000 for the winger in January 1995, will receive 25 per cent of any fee received should Lawrence be sold on.

Bradford also signed the striker, Robert Steiner, for £500,000 from IFK Norrkoping, the Swedish club, on a three-year contract. Steiner spent three months on loan at Valley Parade last season.



No 1117

- ACROSS
- Solemn roll of bell (5)
 - Relevant (7)
 - (Glass) made opaque (7)
 - White-rose supporter (7)
 - Merchant ship (poet) (6)
 - Area of jurisdiction: salesman's patch (9)
 - Phrase as pass on for die (9)
 - In this direction (6)
 - Pleasantly pungent (7)
 - Yearly allowance (7)
 - De luxe carriage (7)
 - Capturer of Quebec, 1759 (5)
- DOWN
- Franz — Trial author (5)
 - Sufficient (6)
 - Most recent (6)
 - Gentleman (4)
 - Hollow receiving ball, plug etc (6)
 - Monk's haircut (7)
 - A stampede forwards (6)
 - (Hist.) freeman farmer (6)
 - Odd; inquisitive (7)
 - Every sixty minutes (6)
 - Tiny carp (6)
 - High and piercing (6)
 - Word as full for hull (5)
 - Glass boat armoured vehicle (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1116
ACROSS: 5 Wildfell Hall 8 Anorak 9 Carass 10 Tack 12 Legible 14 Aeolian 15 Thus 17 Reason 18 Recant 20 Advantageous

DOWN: 1 Swing the lead 2 Blur 3 Slacken 4 Churlish 6 Fake 7 Listlessness 11 Colossal 13 Magnate 16 Brag 19 Clod

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World Cup drug cheats warned

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

PLAYERS competing in the World Cup football finals in France next year will face the most stringent drug-testing procedures in the history of the sport. If a player tests positive, he will take no further part in the competition; if two from the same team produce positive samples, their country is likely to be thrown out of the tournament.

Even non-playing substitutes and players "behaving strangely" could be subjected to the rigorous testing process, which will adhere to the medical code of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Dr Laurent Rivier, the scientific director at the laboratory for analytical toxicology at the University of Lausanne's institute of legal medicine, will head the tournament's anti-doping unit. He gave warning that if players fail a test, excuses of ignorance or poor advice are unlikely to receive much sympathy. "It is up to each individual to know what he is taking," Rivier said. "It is no use saying: 'My doctor said it was OK. I did not realise it was wrong.'"

Rivier, 54, was speaking in Lyons during the Tournoi de France, which concludes this evening when France play Italy in Paris. Fifa, the sport's world governing body, and the French organising officials have used the tournament as a trial run for the World Cup finals.

Diego Maradona, the controversial Argentina forward, tested positive in the finals three years ago and was expelled from the remainder of the competition. The Argentina team escaped punishment and progressed to the second round, in which they lost to Romania.

Rivier is confident that the samples taken in France will not be lost, mixed up or allowed to deteriorate. "If we find traces of a drug in a player's urine, then we will be 100 per cent certain that he has taken something," he said.

"Any problems regarding identification have been resolved and we now have new ways of ensuring that the sample belongs to the individual concerned. We will have very strict security and I can guarantee that no crossover of samples will happen."

Hewlett-Packard, the leading American computer company, which is the main sponsor of Tottenham Hotspur and has its United Kingdom headquarters in Bracknell, Berkshire, will provide the chemical analysis and medical products. It is part of its multimillion-dollar support, including information technology services, for the tournament.

France aiming to go out in style

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FRANCE face the challenge of proving to their supporters that they are on the right track for the World Cup football finals, on home soil next summer, when they meet Italy in the final match of the Tournoi de France at Parc des Princes tonight.

Aimé Jacquet's side has so far disappointed, losing 1-0 to England after a creditable second-half display against Brazil in Lyons, where they secured a 1-1 draw in the opening match. Both sides will be looking to avoid finishing in last place, the Italians after a 2-0 defeat by England and a 3-3 draw with Brazil, the world champions.

TABLE									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
England	3	2	0	0	4	4	6		
Brazil	3	2	0	0	4	4	6		
France	3	0	1	1	3	5	1		
Italy	3	0	1	1	3	5	1		

□ Not including last night's match

Jacquet, whose attack is suffering from a severe shortage of goals, said that what counts at this experimental stage is "that the French team should be ready in a year".

He added: "These two teams [Brazil and Italy] are superior to us in the domain of finishing." France, although conceding only two goals, have scored just one in the tournament.

Fabien Barthez, the France goalkeeper, will miss the match after injuring a finger when Alan Shearer scored a late winning goal for England. Lionel Charbonnier, of Auxerre, steps up to earn his first cap.

Karembeu should be back after twisting an ankle early in the game against Brazil in a side close to Jacquet's first-choice team.

France are expected to bring back Ibrahim Ba, an attacking midfielder player, on the right in front of their most experienced back four, with Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff as the playmakers. This would leave room for only one striker, Christophe Dugarry, of AC Milan.

Italy, who have not beaten France since the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina, are forced to make several changes because of injury.

Neither Dino Baggio nor Demetrio Albertini, who played in the match against Brazil, are fit, the Milan player having left France early to undergo surgery on a groin injury.

This is likely to mean that Gianfranco Zola, who prefers a forward role, will link up with Antonio Lombardo and Roberto Di Matteo, his Chelsea team-mate, in a midfield behind the unchanged front line of Christian Vieri and Alessandro Del Piero.

At the back, with Paolo Maldini, the captain, doubtful, Cesare Maldini will probably include both Stefano Torrisi and Alessandro Nesta. He is expected to bring back Antonio Benarrivo to replace the younger Maldini.

The greatest concern for Italy is that they have conceded five goals in two matches. "A great fatigue provoked the spaces which Brazil needed to express themselves," Dino Baggio said. "In good health, Brazil would not have caught up with us."



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WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 1997

GREAT RESTORATIONS 2 ■ THE JUBILEE EFFECT 6 ■ WHAT CAN YOU GET FOR £100,000? 11 ■

SHAKERS & MOVERS

Redford bows out

ROBERT REDFORD is moving out of New York. His penthouse on Fifth Avenue is on the market and is expected to sell for more than \$4 million. The agent is thought to be Brown Harris Stevens. Those who have visited say the views over Central Park South are wonderful.



On the move: Redford

House of parties

A **GRADE II** house in Fulham bought by the first Lord Beaverbrook in 1918 and still used as the family home ever since is for sale for £6 million with Aylesford. The Vineyard in Hurlingham Road was the venue for glittering parties and political meetings with guests including Lloyd George and Sir Winston Churchill, between the two world wars. The house has six bedrooms and there is a one-bedroom staff cottage.

The perfect location



Ben Kingsley: new stage

BEN KINGSLEY is selling his home, Pebworth House, near Stratford-upon-Avon. It is on the market with Strutt & Parker for £495,000. The house has five bedrooms and a two-bedroom flat on the second floor. There is also a three-bedroom cottage with its own garden.

Stoker's story room for sale



Dracula: born in Whitby

IN JUNE 1896, Bram Stoker was sitting in his bedroom in the Fearnley Hotel, high on Whitby's promenade. A bat flew through the window, and the story of Dracula was born. Now the same room is up for sale, as part of a block of flats. "A lot of the people we've shown the flat to are very interested in Dracula, but there haven't been any cranks," says Mark Pennick, of the estate agent Bairstow Eves, who has valued the flat at £46,500. The most recent occupant reported noises from the empty flat above and the smell of burnt candle wax. It is the only one of the six flats in the block still unsold.

His loss, your gain

CHESTERTONS Residential has a flat for rent at £650 per week owned by the former Conservative MP for Leeds, Spencer Batiste, who lost his seat in the general election. The flat, in Riverside Court, Nine Elms Lane, southwest London, is conveniently situated for Westminster. It has river views, three bedrooms and two reception rooms. Originally two flats, it is described as having excellent space for entertaining.

The Church is taking a humbler approach to property, putting some tempting residences up for sale, writes

Eve-Ann Prentice

A home too good for a bishop

The official residence of the Bishop of Portsmouth goes on sale today, 18 months after the bishop was asked to leave the exquisite house set in seven idyllic acres of Hampshire greenery. It is with a Winchester estate agent for £800,000.

The nine-bedroom, five-bathroom house is the first bishop's residence in an English diocese to be sold since the 1980s, when the Church of England lost £800 million on the property market. Last year, the Church Commissioners declared it was "no longer appropriate for bishops to live in such grandeur".

The house cost a reported £37,530 to maintain in 1992 and the Bishop, Dr Kenneth Stevenson, was asked to move because the Church Commissioners felt a 200-year-old residence set in seven acres was not appropriate for a family man. Guidelines on where bishops live are laid down by the commissioners and the House of Bishops.

Dr Stevenson, a father of four, was initially reluctant to leave the magnificent house, called Bishopswood, in Fareham, between Portsmouth and Southampton, but now says he understands the reasons for his move to a £300,000 six-bedroom Victorian villa called Carlton House nearby.

Although another bishop's residence is believed to have been sold about 15 years ago, the Church Commissioners say that the sale of such houses is "extremely rare". The commissioners are currently three-quarters of the way through a seven-year review of all 44 see houses.

Bishopswood was originally called Blackbrook Cottage, and its first owner was George Purvis, who married Jane Austen's niece.

Tenants in a three-bedroom lodge and a gardener's cottage included in the sale have been given until the end of September to find new homes.

In a statement to *The Times*, the Church Commissioners said: "The tenants have been given as much notice as possible - 12 months - to make alternative arrangements. We hope that they will be settled in the near future."

"The Bishop and the diocese were unhappy at first, but have grown used to the idea [of moving]. This is now well in the past and the Bishop looks forward to moving into Carlton House, which will be renamed, probably Bishopswood."

The original Bishopswood, a Grade II listed enlarged

Cottage Orné, has one of the biggest thatched roofs in Britain. The cost of rethatching is believed to have been an important factor in the commissioners' decision to ask Dr Stevenson, who was enthroned and moved to Bishopswood in 1995, to leave.

Prospective buyers are likely to be enchanted by the sweep of the drive, the gothic windows, and a great hall, added this century with a neo-Tudor brick fireplace. A magnificent dining room and a panelled drawing room both have French doors to the garden and there are ladies' and gentlemen's cloakrooms leading from the hall. A small study is described by estate agents Lane Fox as "currently used for private worship". There are also outbuildings with garaging.

Woods that form part of the grounds of the house, which

has been the official residence of the bishops of Portsmouth since 1927, are the only surviving part of the ancient Forest of Bere and contain many examples of wild plants which have been surveyed and recorded.

A weeping willow by a sunken ornamental pond is said to have been grown from a cutting taken from the grave of Napoleon Bonaparte at St Helena.

The Church of England's 44 dioceses contain nine palaces and 35 other historic and imposing residences for bishops, costing £1.6 million to maintain in 1994. The commissioners believe the ideal bishop's residence should have six bedrooms, a dining room capable of seating up to 12 people, a room for up to 30 people to meet, a study, a

drawing room, a sitting room purely for family use and "limited" grounds. The seven acres at Bishopswood are believed to have been regarded as too large and expensive to maintain.

The commissioners think that a large house is justified only if it is a vital part of Church heritage, would be difficult to sell, the profit to be gained by selling would be marginal, or much of the building is used as offices or other purposes.

The annual cost of maintaining a bishop was last year reported to be around £159,000, including domestic and secretarial help, chauffeur and a salary of £24,590.

For information on the sale of Bishopswood, telephone Lane Fox in Winchester 01962 866999.



Dr Stevenson and Bishopswood, whose first owner married Jane Austen's niece



The Bishopswood dining room: "no longer appropriate" say the Church Commissioners

Endless appeal of old vicarages

Rising costs are forcing the clergy into new homes

Stands the church clock at ten to three? And is there honey still for tea? Rupert Brooke's musings on the old vicarage at Grantchester evoke a gentle afternoon in a quintessential English parish before the First World War, Eve-Ann Prentice writes.

But times have changed since Brooke penned his lines. For a start, Lord Archer has moved in to Grantchester's old vicarage near Cambridge and closed the orchard tea gardens.

Across the county border in Bedfordshire, Peter Whittaker is one of a dwindling band of Church of England clergy still living in English vicarages and rectories. Unlike the others, he is safe in the knowledge that he can stay there.

As the costs of maintaining huge and rambling country homes have soared, many of the venerable buildings have been sold - 102 of them last year.

Clergy in parishes where vicarages have been put on the market have usually moved to modern, purpose-built homes. But Canon Whittaker, vicar of Barton-Le-Clay, north of Luton, knows that his rectory - dating from 1530 and perhaps the oldest in England - will never be sold, thanks to a local benefactor who left £500,000 to the parish when he died.

Some of the money has been used to save the magnificent building from being sold. The Parochial Church Council also built a new church hall, repaired the 12th century church next door, and paid the costs of maintaining the rectory. "We could not have afforded to keep it going without the legacy," says Canon Whittaker. His biggest headache now is the disappearance this year of a moat bordering the garden, from which Queen Elizabeth I is reputed to have eaten apples.

Less fortunate clergy whose traditional vicarages were sold in the 1960s and 1970s often ended up in poorly designed replacements. Now, though, new parsonages are being built according to guidelines laid down in *Parsonages: A Design Guide*, published by the Church Commissioners, and credited with greatly improving new homes for clergy.



Canon Whittaker's rectory, above, and Canon Clarke's new home



Canon Chris Clarke has recently moved to what may be the newest vicarage in England, at Sonning in Berkshire. The four-bedroom house was finished last Christmas according to the tenets laid down in the parsonages' design guide. Canon Clarke loves it. "The old vicarage has been sold," he

says, "and we kept a third of an acre on which to build the new house. The old vicarage needed a vast amount spending on it and it is much better here."

There is not as much room of course, but we don't need as much. I have a big study and it is lovely to have a shower room as well as a bathroom. From the parishioners' point of view, there were some concerns because this is in an ancient and sensitive area, but now they like the house."

What happens when a large, often Victorian vicarage, becomes too expensive to maintain, and how are new vicarages designed? Proposals to replace a building are initiated locally, not by the church commissioners as some people imagine, and the consent of the incumbent clergyman or woman is needed. The local proposal to sell does, however, then need the consent of the commissioners. "The number of houses disposed of annually is relatively small," the commissioners say. 102 in 1996 out of a housing stock of 8,000. "Listed, old or large buildings require proper maintenance and this is often better carried out by private people with sufficient resources for the task rather than by the clergy, whose primary task is to provide a pastoral ministry to their parishes," the commissioners add.

The commissioners' Green Guide to designing clergy homes was last revised in 1990 and a new guide is to be issued this year. "Design and environmental standards have altered and security issues have become more prominent," the commissioners say in their annual report for 1996.

Among the criteria for architects planning a new parsonage are: parking for three to five cars, access for prams and wheelchairs, sheltered spots for the clergyman or woman's children to play "screened for privacy", and a garden with trees and shrubs which "should not provide a would-be intruder with cover or a means of access to and from upstairs windows".

The accent on security is evident in the guide's exhortation for "sensible precautions to protect the property and its occupants... good exterior lighting and a mortice lock for the front door".

Inside, the modern parsonage should have a lobby with waiting space, a large study, two reception rooms, one of which should be large enough to accommodate meetings of 20-25 people, and four bedrooms.

Back in Barton-Le-Clay, Canon Whittaker strides across the sloping floors in the oldest part of his Tudor rectory, where a Jacobite code-breaker is reputed to have once lived. He points out that half of the house is given over to community use, for meetings, retreats and even a social services training day.

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2 PEOPLE & PROPERTY



Those enjoying the season will always find short-term lets in central London

Rent, strawberries and cream

The social season offers a chance to let your house for £3,000 to £10,000 while you take a month's holiday. Diana Wildman reports

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The English class system, in all its glory, is about to burst upon us as the annual merry-go-round of the social season comes around again. The season is structured around several key events. These include the Wimbledon tennis championships which start on June 23, followed by Henley Royal Regatta on July 2, while the two-month Royal Academy Summer Exhibition began on June 1.

For equine aficionados, Royal Ascot, in mid-June, is the highlight of the relentless round of champagne-fuelled events, closely followed by the summer polo season at Cirencester.

All this heady activity is manna from heaven for rental companies which are under pressure to supply a large variety of homes for short-term lets.

Lorraine Drummond of Knight Frank's Ascot office (01344 875500) says: "We are finding that clients who go abroad for the summer are happy to let their homes for between £3,000 and £10,000 a month for anything from a four-bedroom house to a seven-bedroom mansion with tennis court and pool."

Says Jane Irwin of Knight Frank's Cirencester office (01285 658656): "The polo season runs for six months and players, particularly teams from Argentina, will rent in the Cotswolds to be near Cirencester and the Beaufort polo ground at Weston Birt where the Prince of Wales plays."

"Players usually look for at least three bedrooms with garden and cleaner and will pay up to £2,000 per month. They do not necessarily require stables because their polo ponies will be at livery but they need to be accessible to the grounds for practising chukkas."

Ms Irwin has two suitable properties available. The first, asking £800 per month, is a four-bedroom Cotswold stone cottage in Northleach near Cirencester. The second is a five bedroom/five reception stone period house in Upper Minety for £1,600 per month, with three stables, tack room and paddocks.

There is always a good selection of central London property available for short-term lets which suits visitors keen to attend as many social events as possible.

Says Julie May of Wetherell (0171-493 6935): "We have a client who wants a substantial house for himself and a flat for his staff for three weeks only during Wimbledon. We are showing him two possibilities: a four-bedroom house in Woods Mews, Mayfair, along with a flat which is £8,000 per week with an additional £1,000 per week for staff, and also a six-bedroom house in Holland Park available for £10,000 each week."

Joanna Doniger of Tensils London (0171-730 2843) has to find 170 suitable Wimbledon properties by mid-June to house players plus some of their entourage.

She says: "It is a logistical nightmare. The landlords are owners who move out just for the two weeks. I am lucky to get

one complete day to prepare the property. Most in demand are large detached houses close to the All England Club, preferable with a tennis court.

"The average rental is far less than people suppose, at around £6,000 for the two weeks. One leading player, however, will move into a beautifully presented five-bedroom house close to the club, complete with a hard tennis court for which the rent is £12,000. My commission is 15 per cent and clients have to pay tax which, after deductions, can be 40 per cent."

"I am still looking for next month, particularly for smart one-bedroom flats in Wimbledon Village which will rent for up to £1,100 for two weeks. Essentials include a power shower and satellite television."

In Henley, people tend to rent flats or houses close to the river for the regatta and the Henley Festival. Says Valerie Foster, of Savills' Henley office (01491 579990): "Riverside properties are like gold dust, and boathouses overlooking the finishing line command high premiums."

Savills have two suitable properties available. For £500 per week there is the four-bedroom Chalk Cottage which is situated on the outskirts of Henley with

wonderful rural views. At Nettlebed, four miles from Henley, is Howberry Wood Farm, a detached seven-bedroom period farmhouse with classic features, including inglenook fireplaces and exposed beams. Savills want £500 per week.

Rowena Wild of Chestertons Residential (0171-262 5060) strikes a cautionary note. She says: "It is easy to look at the benefits of short-term rentals but to ignore potential pitfalls."

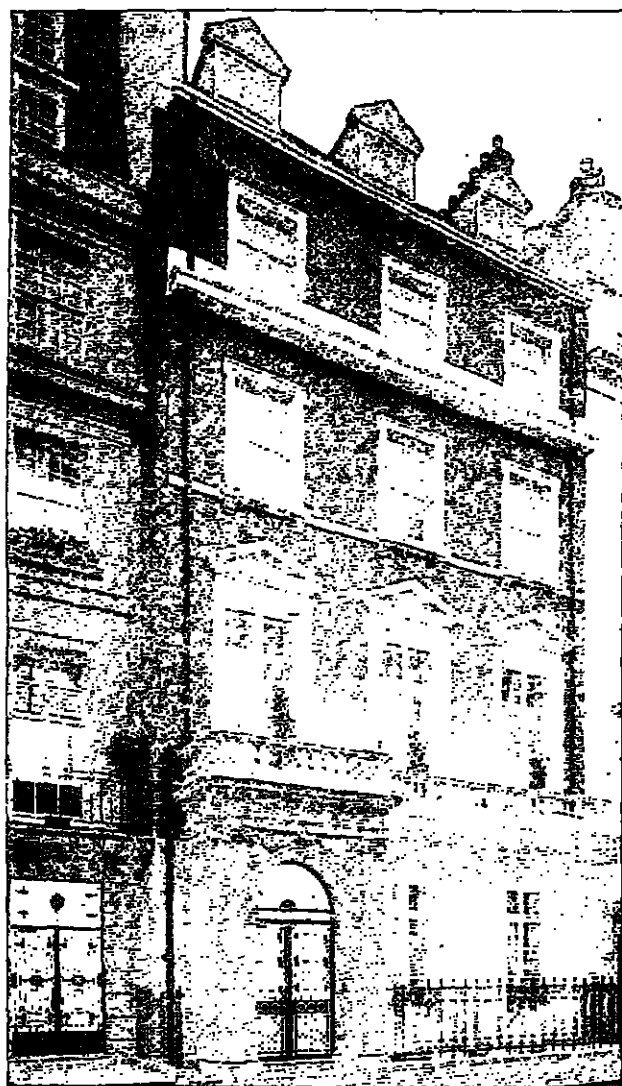
"Do make sure the property meets your requirements. If it is advertised for Wimbledon fortnight, look carefully at its location and how easy it is to get to the grounds. A whole variety of parking restrictions will apply to the areas in which the main events of the summer season take place, so make sure there is adequate parking that will definitely be available to you for the period of your stay."

"Many people who opt for a short-term let during the summer season are attracted by a garden, but check what the terms of the tenancy specify about maintenance. You may find that the tenant is responsible for the upkeep of the garden—that half acre may look less attractive when viewed in terms of grass cutting and weeding."

"It is important to find out what arrangements for management have been made by the landlord. Ideally, he will have instructed an agent to handle this so that if any problems arise a professional will be available to put things right."

"Finally, I would not advise short-term tenants to view such a rental as an economical alternative to a hotel. It usually isn't."

Katherine Bergen on a pleasing trend in British cities as handsome buildings are converted to their original use as homes



The stylish Georgian façade of 19 Upper Brook Street

Popping home to the office

For the past five years, Mayfair has been London's most prestigious building site as office buildings revert to their original use in this once-prized residential location.

Many houses were granted permission after the Second World War for conversion to offices to alleviate the shortage of commercial sites. The City of London, which had been badly bombed during the blitz, could not accommodate all the businesses needing space and Mayfair was chosen as an alternative.

In 1990 when temporary office planning consents expired, it was decided that 57 of the properties owned by the Grosvenor Estate, whose ownership of 100 acres made it the biggest landlord in the area, would return to residential use. It was generally thought that there was no demand for big houses in Mayfair and many buildings were converted back into flats.

That view has changed and since 1992, Peter Wetherell, who has been specialising in Mayfair property for 25 years,

PROPERTY CONVERSIONS

has sold more than 50 buildings on behalf of the Grosvenor Estate and other clients, which have been, or will be, converted back to substantial single residences.

Mr Wetherell estimates that the gentrification of Mayfair offices reverting to residential is considered to account for more than a million square feet of space. This includes 15 single residences providing more than 7,000 sq ft. The company is marketing Mayfair property worth more than £60 million, nearly 50 per cent of which has reverted to residential from commercial usage.

Last month Mr Wetherell, with the joint agents De Groot Collis and DTZ Debenham Thorpe, sold 20 Upper Brook Street as a single residence for more than £4 million. The six-storey house, built in 1737 by John Simmons, has had many alterations over the years but retained its basic layout and some original features.

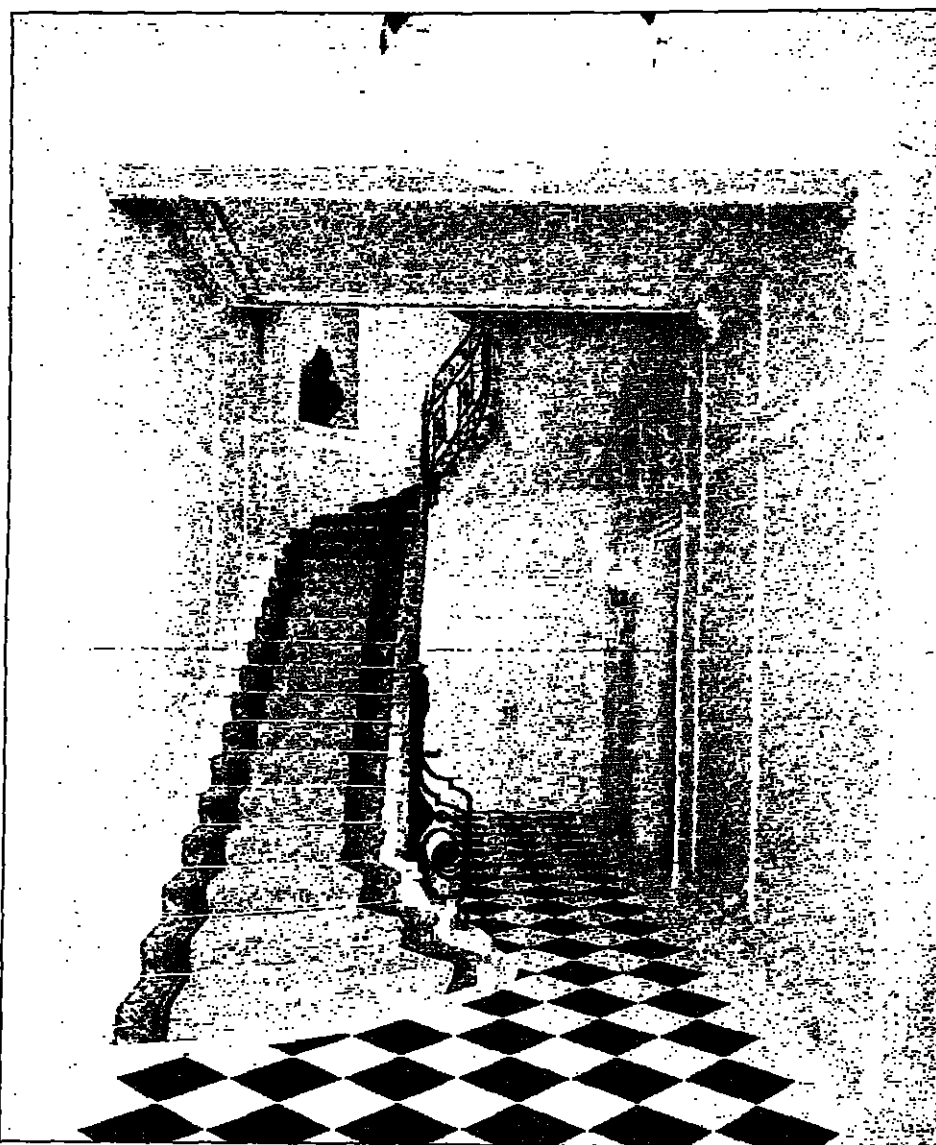
The same agencies have two other houses in the street to sell. No 23, built in 1742 and once lived in by Sir Thomas Foxwell Buxton, High Sheriff of Norfolk and 4th Earl Howe, Lord Chamberlain to Queen Alexandra, is on the market for £4.25 million. The house also retains its original plan and both the circular skylight drum and the staircase which illuminates are from the 18th century.

Modern touches include an indoor swimming pool, air-cooling system, lift, and double glazing at the front of the house. When No 19 was being restored, builders found a vaulted ceiling, under which a pool has been built, and the original wine cellar. The new owner, who will have to pay £8.75 million for a 101-year lease, will receive four bottles of 1929 Nuits St Georges which were found festooned in cobwebs in the cellar.

These properties are beautifully restored, but unfurnished. One property in South Street, which is on the market with Knight Frank and De Groot Collis, has been given the personal touch by its property developer owner who has actually lived in it. The house, birthplace of Conservative Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home, has a bright yellow atrium with 15ft palm trees and a whirlpool bath. So rigorous were the developer's standards in the main kitchen — there are two, he is a keen cook — that he insisted the reclaimed teak be given 11 coats of yacht varnish. He is selling the property with a guide price of £5.9 million.

The phenomenon of reconversion to residential use is not limited to London. John Brown from DTZ Debenham Thorpe, which handles most of the conversion schemes in west Edinburgh, cites numerous examples in the city, although reconversion there is to flats as well as single houses. One example is No 6 Glenfinlas Street, Charlotte Square, where a period building has been converted to five flats.

Mr Brown says: "Former residential A-listed buildings, which in the course of the past half-century were turned into offices, are now coming back to residential use. For a period of about 50 years from the end of the war to the mid-1940s, the



The entrance hall and sweeping staircase at 19 Upper Brook Street



South Street, Mayfair: atrium with whirlpool bath

original residential use in the New Town and the West End changed to commercial because of the demand for new business. From the mid-1990s office requirements started moving away from the conventional New Town style of building to open-plan."

Initially, demand was not very strong, but companies such as AMA (New Town) acquired seven houses in Palmerston Place, which Scottish Homes had been using as offices, to turn into flats. Likewise, the Walker Group has bought ten houses from Hydro Electric in Rothsay Terrace.

A building in Darnaway Street that has just been sold for £400,000 will be refurbished as a single house. Mr Brown says: "This property is a good example of a town house used as an office for some years and reverting to its original format for residential use." As with the Mayfair properties, he explains, most of the significant features have remained intact. In many cases they had been covered up for office use by temporary partitions.

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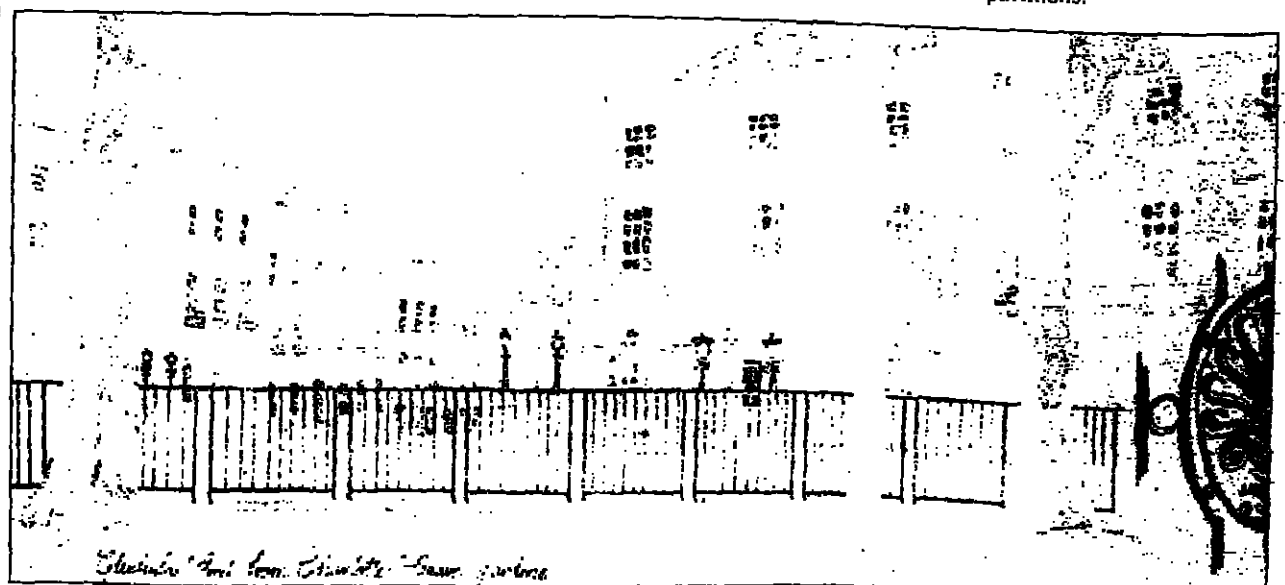
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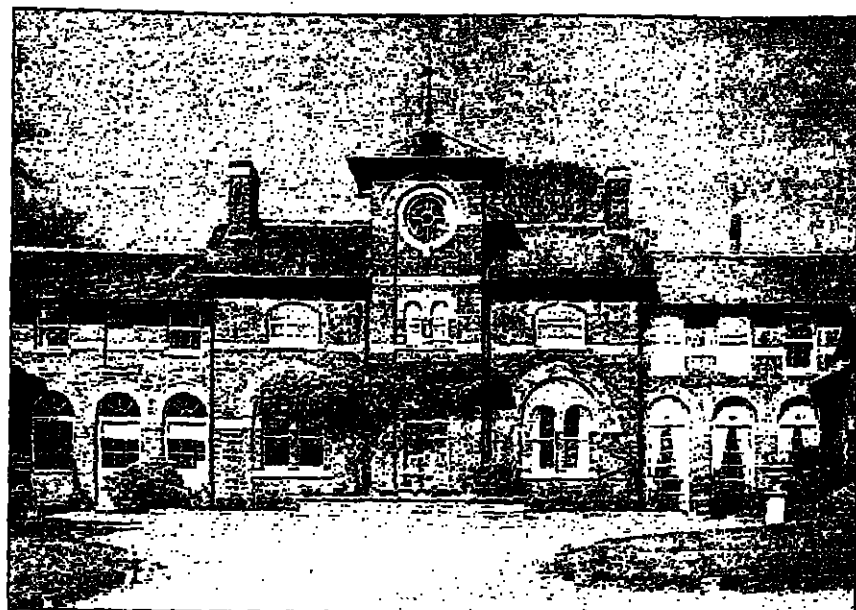
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Artist's drawing of Glenfinlas Street from Charlotte Square Gardens, Edinburgh, which is being converted to homes

The co-owner of a Formula 1 racing team is selling the home he has made into a homage to horse-power, writes Eve-Ann Prentice



Classic formula: for about £1 million Battlesden offers a seven-bedroom converted coach house, garden, heated swimming pool, hard tennis courts, stable block and manège, with commanding views over the Bedfordshire countryside

Perfect place for a family with drive to park and ride

Doves, the ultimate symbol of peace, endow Battlesden House with an air of supreme tranquillity. A narrow, Sunday-driver sort of lane meanders lazily through the Bedfordshire countryside and leads to the gravel driveway fronting the seven-bedroom house which is being sold so the vendor can be nearer his new workplace.

The luxurious converted coach house looks like the ultimate retreat of minor royalty. Yet a peek through the keyhole instantly reveals that the man who is selling is used to living life in the fast lane.

Walls in the study are festooned with Grand Prix photographs, shelves adorned with helmets worn by Formula One legends such as Gerhard Berger and Ricardo Patrese.

But the real giveaway is a fleet of Formula One racing cars in the garage block.

The man who is selling Battlesden House is Jackie Oliver, co-owner of the TWR Arrows racing team. Last year, engineering

ace Tom Walkinshaw took a 51 per cent stake in the team and the TWR Arrows' main factory is moving from Milton Keynes to Leamington, near Oxford. The racing team's wind tunnel is staying at Milton Keynes. So Oliver has put his mansion on the market and is looking for a home nearer Oxford.

With a price tag of around £1 million, Battlesden House comes with stables and adjoining floodlit all-weather manège, heated swimming pool, hard tennis court, and the Woburn estate and the Duke of Bedford for neighbours.

"I will never find another place like this," says Oliver. "It's right in the middle of old-money farming country; they resist the temptation to change so it will never be spoilt round here."

Oliver was hoping to open a racing car museum at the house, but planning permission for the garage block where eight Formula One cars are now housed took two-and-a-half years to get and now, of course, he is moving.

The cars, including models driven by Derek Warwick, Michele

Alboreto and Gerhard Berger, are to be moved to the factory near Oxford along with the other 26 or so which Oliver also owns. "I have a full-time chap looking after the cars, doing polishing, rust prevention and keeping the tyres pumped up," says Oliver.

"The house was not fully renovated when we came here," Oliver adds. "The east wing was in ruins and we turned it into a snooker room."

Oliver thinks the garage block would be ideal for any new owner with a collection of classic cars.

The site of Battlesden House has a curious history: an Elizabethan manor belonging to Sir John Duncombe first stood on the spot, but this was demolished and replaced with a huge Gothic chateau-style house in 1864.

The ninth Duke of Bedford bought the house in 1885 and demolished all except the ground floor — used as a nursing home during the Second World War — and coach house.

The remains of the principal house were demolished after the



Making tracks: Jackie Oliver and his dog, Lockey, with his fleet of Formula 1 racing cars which will find a new home near Oxford

war, leaving the coach house that has been home to Jackie Oliver, his wife and two young daughters for the past ten years.

"I suppose one of my favourite rooms in the house is the bedroom, where I can get some rare sleep," Oliver says. "I don't drive racing

cars much now because they are so problematical at low speeds that it is not so much fun."

"The fastest I have ever driven was 254mph at night at Le Mans in 1971, but speed all seems the same over 150mph."

And what does he drive on public

roads? "My favourite car is anything which goes. I use a Range Rover during the hunting season."

Fat Koi carp swim lazy loops beneath a stone fountain in the driveway to Battlesden House and Oliver says there is unlikely to be a water shortage for the new owner.

"There are 50,000 gallons of rain-water under the front courtyard. It is drained from the roof and was originally intended to water the horses."

● Details of Battlesden House from Strutt & Parker. 0171-629 7282

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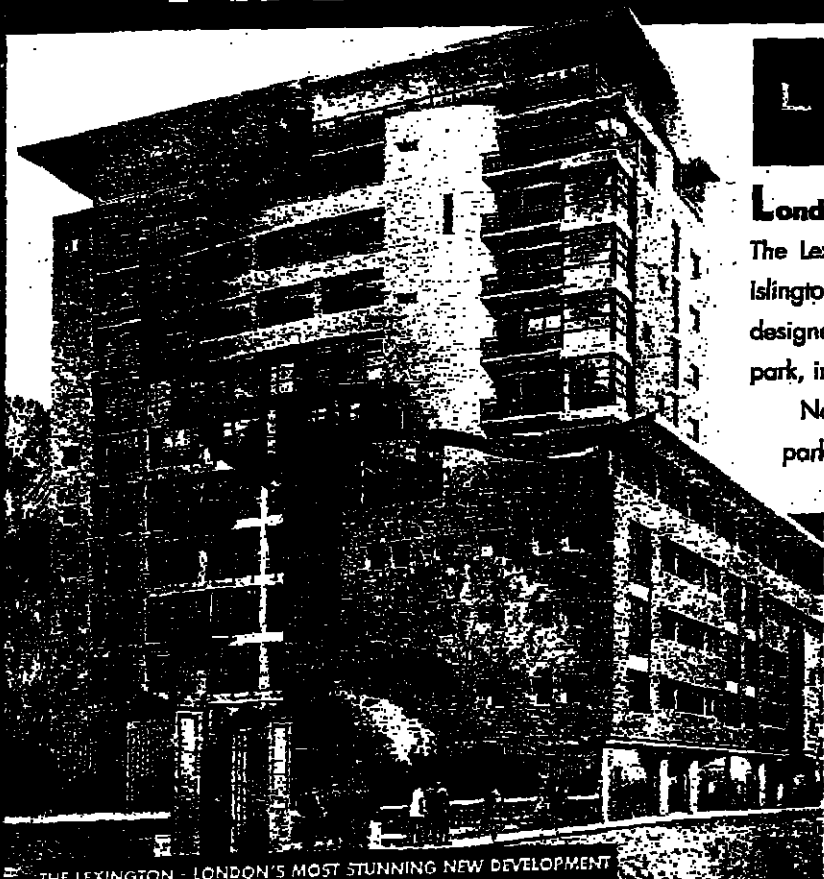
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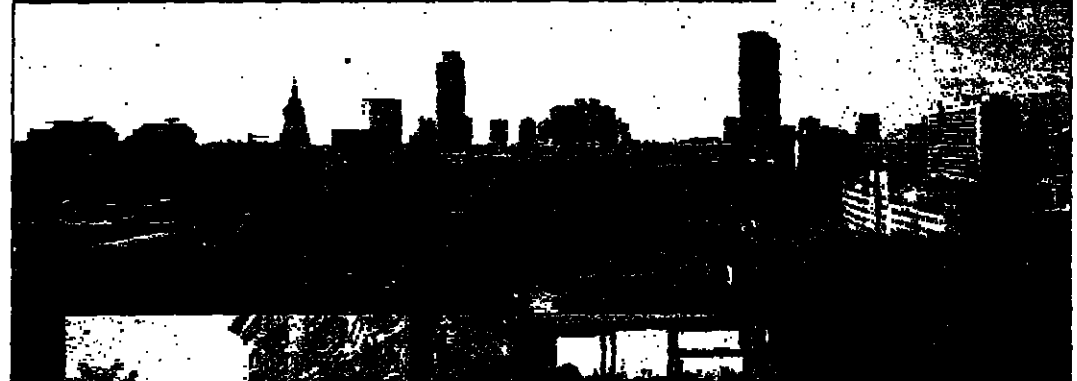
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As confidence returns, the cranes – and the rentals – are going up again in London. Christopher Warman reports

Boom brings on a building season

The crane count over London, particularly the City, is an easy, if rough, measure of development activity – and the omens are good. The cranes are in their busy season as growing confidence after the recession is translated into action.

The NatWest Tower is a prime example: vacated in 1993 after a bomb devastated the building, it is emerging as The International Financial Centre to reflect its role in attracting tenants. The 318,000 sq ft building will be ready for occupation in October, and Paul Storey, the property director, emphasises the flexibility of its space.

No longer does he expect a few large occupiers, but instead is offering four leasing packages: fully furnished service suites; two variations of short-term leases; and long-term leases for single and multiple floors.

Mr Storey says that the building can provide exactly what the tenant wants in this fast-changing high-tech society. He expects to fill the Centre with 40 to 50 occupiers, two thirds of whom could come from overseas. The size of offices will

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range from a few desks in a serviced suite, to 3,000 sq ft which occupies one of the three "leaves" of each floor, and up to 30,000 sq ft for the larger tenants. The quoting rent will be about £45 a sq ft, showing that City rentals are clambering back towards the high of £55 a sq ft before the recession.

The building was taken back to its basic structure, the latest services were installed and it was recast to represent almost a replica of the original. The completion represents, according to Mr Storey, the first bounce-back of development into the City core since the shift eastwards to Broadgate a decade ago. Many of the buildings in Old Broad Street, which will be the Centre's main entrance, are following the road of redevelopment as the City core renews itself.

One building under construction is owned by Grosvenor Estate Holdings, which has also embarked on a "new generation of Mayfair office schemes", with two

projects at Grosvenor Street and Bourdon Street, W1. In addition, demolition has just begun at Hobart House, 40 Grosvenor Place, the former Coal Board headquarters, to provide a 210,000 sq ft building by the summer of 1999.

The development at 75 Grosvenor Street, which like Bourdon Street will be completed this summer, has 16,500 sq ft of offices behind a retained classical facade. The scheme has been created by joining No 24, a Grade II listed building, to No 75 by a central glazed atrium. The agents are Hillier Parker and Baker Lorenz.

The 10,675 sq ft office scheme at 8 Bourdon Street will use a fresh air displacement system which shows considerable cost and energy savings over a conventional air-conditioning system. It also gives tenants the opportunity to occupy a new office building with open plan floorspace in the heart of Mayfair, a rarity within the conservation area. The agents are Hillier Parker and Crossland Otter Hunt.

Strong demand and a shortage of supply could lead to increases in rents, says Stephen Newbold, a



The old NatWest Tower, now the International Financial Centre, dominates the London skyline

partner with Knight Frank. "Rising levels of take-up have raised investor and developer expectations of the scale of rental growth. With a selected number of prominent schemes now being brought to the

market, the next few months should see new benchmarks for prime rental levels."

Jones Lang Wootton's figures for the first quarter of this year show that there is a severe shortage of top

quality, sizeable office space. The advisers have identified 100 occupiers seeking more than 54,000 sq ft – 52 in the West End and 48 in the City. Eleven are actively looking for more than 216,000 sq ft.

Offices adjoin Wren church

MARKET MOVES

NATIONAL Mutual Life has completed construction of 1 Bow Churchyard, Cheapside, EC4. The building, adjacent to St Mary-le-Bow church, was designed by Hamilton Associates to complement the Wren church.

The building provides about 41,440 sq ft of air-conditioned offices. The joint agents, Gooch & Wagstaff and Hillier Parker, are asking a rental of £43 a sq ft.

BURFORD Western Estates Ltd, part of Burford Group plc, has announced a multi-million pound development for its 452-acre site at Avonmouth, to be called Cabot Park. The park will create the largest purpose-built business centre in the South West. The 3 million sq ft of accommodation will occupy only 27 per cent of the area. More than 30 acres will be developed as nature reserves.

The masterplan, designed by Fletcher Bennett Architects of Manchester, includes a distribution park, rail freight terminal and business village.

CLOCKHOUSE Place, at Bedford Lakes near Heathrow, is claimed to be the largest speculative office development in the Thames Valley since the early part of this decade. The letting agents, Healey & Baker and Strutt & Parker, are quoting a rent of £27 a sq ft for the 112,700 sq ft office development.

Owned by Hanover Property Unit Trust, the four-storey building, costing £16 million to build, provides air-conditioned space, for both open-plan and cellular offices, for about 800 employees, and parking for 445 cars.

THE Commission for the New Towns has appointed developers for a £35 million redevelopment of the western end of Basildon town centre. Thornfield Developments Ltd and Teesland Development Company Ltd are to build the scheme on the seven-acre Fodderwick site. It will provide 179,000 sq ft of retail space, with a pub-diner, restaurant and multi-storey car park.

Central Europe ripe for buyers

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Now is the time for investors to buy into the central European markets of Budapest, Prague and Warsaw, a recent report from the property advisers DTZ Debenham Zadelhoff recommends.

Chris Bennett, of the firm's Budapest office, says there is a perception that the office letting markets in the three cities are oversupplied, or soon will be. "This is not the case, and the reverse, fundamental under-supply, will persist for some time to come."

Office buildings constructed between the Second World War and 1990 are unsuitable for modern use or sub-standard, suffering from inadequate wiring, poor telecommunications, bad layout and no car parking. In the post-Communist era, new buildings have appeared in all three cities,

but many were poorly designed. The total supply of space available for letting by the end of 1996 was only about 500,000 sq m in Budapest, 235,000 sq m in Prague and about 300,000 sq m in Warsaw, almost none of it adequate. "Only Warsaw will see really substantial new supply in the years to the end of the century."

Mr Bennett argues that while supply remains low, the demand for modern office space is growing fast. This is due to three main factors: the growth and maturing of multi-national companies; entry into the market of local companies, especially in IT, telecoms and finance; and entry into the market of local official institutions such as regulatory bodies.

Illustrating the point, Jones Lang Wootton announced earlier this year the letting of the 10,000 sq m Renaissance Plaza building in Warsaw to the telecommunications group Ericsson, considered to be Warsaw's single largest open market letting transaction to date. Jones Lang Wootton, acting for Rida Development, the Texas-based developers, co-ordinated the marketing and leasing of the Plaza, a state-of-the-art office block with 220 parking spaces.

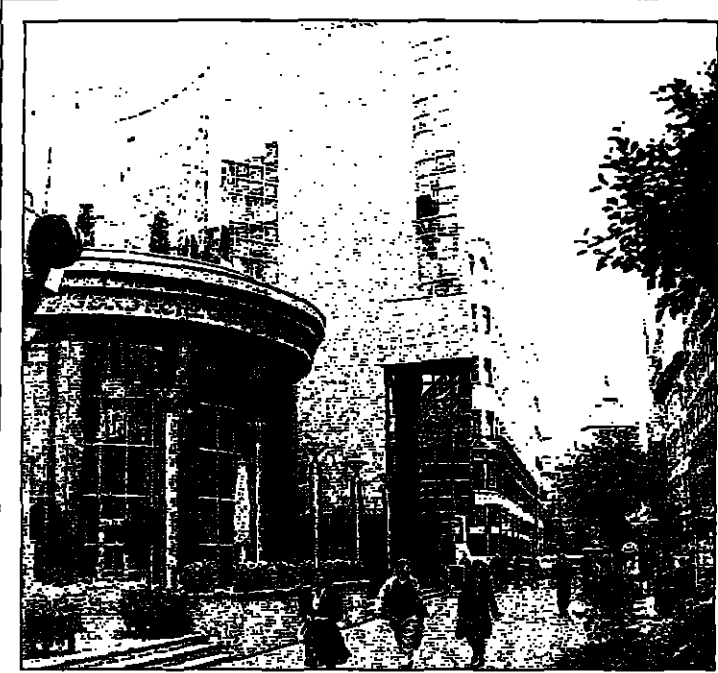
Michael Hodges, the regional partner for Jones Lang Wootton, said that transaction underlined the "integrity of Warsaw's maturing real estate market."

Last month Healey & Baker announced that the Danish com-

panies FORAS Polska and Thordild Kristensen Polska would shortly start construction of two shopping centres, anchored by hypermarkets, both of which have been pre-sold to the French retailer Carrefour.

DTZ Debenham Zadelhoff's report puts these new developments in perspective: of 2.5m sq m office space in Warsaw, about 90 per cent is substandard.

Mr Bennett acknowledges that the central European markets are still very much in their infancy, but are growing towards the Western European norm and rental patterns. "We believe that the current strong growth in demand will more than outweigh any growth in supply. There is a strong case for investors buying now while demand remains strong and yields relatively high."



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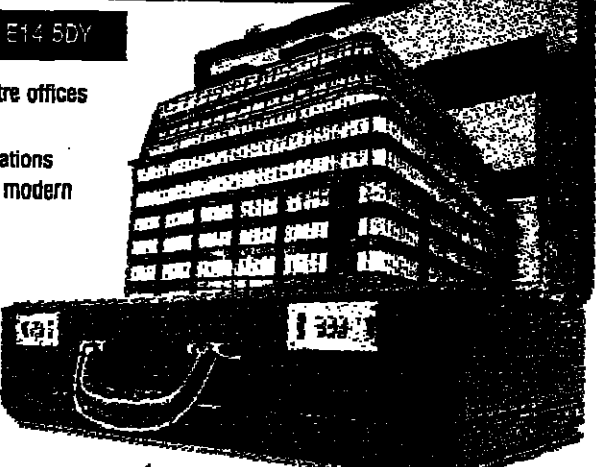
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Artists' studios make a real impression

Besides their character and history, several luxury residences recently on the market have an extra something, as Katherine Bergen explains

Many people must have admired the large, arched windows of St Paul's Studios which attract the eye on an otherwise dreary stretch of the Talgarth Road in west London, near Barons Court. Visually, they are one of the few things that enliven the journey out of London to Heathrow.

Artists' studios come on to the market occasionally and are much sought after for their character, the light they offer and their association with the artist. Douglas & Gordon's Fulham office has just sold 7 St Paul's Studios for £350,000. The studios were built in 1890 by the architect Frederick Wheeler, and the cheval-glass northern studio window with its extended glazed vault does not disappoint in the light it gives, drenching the main reception room. To one side of the great window there is a tall, slim one designed specifically so that canvases could be lifted in and out. "We actually sold this property to an artist," says James Bailey of Douglas & Gordon.

Lane Fox has sold equestrian artist Sir Alfred Munnings's studio at 96 Chelsea Park Gardens, Chelsea, for the asking price of £1,150,000 — to a buyer who boasts a Munnings oil as the jewel of his collection.

Munnings painted many famous horses and their riders at the studio. He bought the site in 1920 and had the present house built to his own specifications. It includes a spacious studio on the first floor, with that all-important north light,

where his sitters would pose on a wooden horse.

Frequently, real horses were brought into the rear garden where there is still a belt push placed at a convenient height on the outer wall so that riders could ring without dismounting. When Sir Alfred died in 1959 his wife ordered his unfinished paintings to be burnt in the garden, saying she did not want any second-rate artist finishing them. Nor did she want any second-rate artist using his studio, which she then divided into several rooms (although these could easily be reinstated).

Knight Frank has a property hidden behind the listed arts and crafts facade at 198 Bermondsey Street in the "Time and Talent Settlement" which is a dramatic rebuild and conversion providing almost 3,000 sq ft of live work space.

The space is lit by a massive glazed roof panel fitted by the owner — tapestry artist Jennie Moncur — and the double-height basement is flooded with daylight from overhead windows. Offers in the region of £380,000 are

invited. The Chelsea office of John D Wood & Co is selling 9 South Bolton Gardens, one of a pair of large studio houses once owned by Hugh Lane, the art collector, and Sir William Orpen, the painter, who moved there in 1907.

H.E. Bates once wrote of the house: "It is a white house with a neat front garden, not at all small for London, in a narrow street. Its downstairs rooms are well-shaped



Built in 1890, 7 St Paul's Studios has just been bought by an artist for £350,000. The main reception room is drenched with light through a cheval-glass window



but not large. Its entrance hall is fairly wide, with some dignity. Its unexpected Florentine facade is unique even for The Boltons, so quiet and distinguished that it reminds one of villas in the southern sunshine. Upstairs is an unexpected immense room of studio airiness and loftiness." The price of such airiness is £1,100,000 freehold.

Strutt & Parker has sold a newly modernised studio in Kensington, 6 Stratford Studios, for just under £800,000. While it is difficult to imagine anyone standing an easel in this immaculately decorated house, it has enviable light pouring into the main two-storey reception room, directly overhead from a skylight, from a triple window above the gallery and through a large, arched window on the ground floor.

Cluttons has just sold a Chelsea artist's studio for £485,000. Avenue

Studios were built to provide art works for Prince Albert and the Great Exhibition of 1851 and have had artists living in them ever since, including the new buyer. The house still has the original artist's picture storing rack.

As final proof that artists do not all live in garrets, in the grounds of Casa Orvais, a villa in San José, Ibiza — a home of the artist Dennis Boas — there are tennis and badminton courts, ponds, waterfalls and a landscaped swimming pool. Boas and a fellow artist Vanessa Middleton, who specialise respectively in *trompe l'oeil* and paint finishes, have taught courses at the villa. Examples of their work decorate the walls and some of the furniture in the house, which is offered unfurnished through Hamptons International at £2,300,000 (about £1.5 million). Some of the contents can be bought separately.



96 Chelsea Park Gardens, Chelsea, former home of the equestrian artist Sir Alfred Munnings

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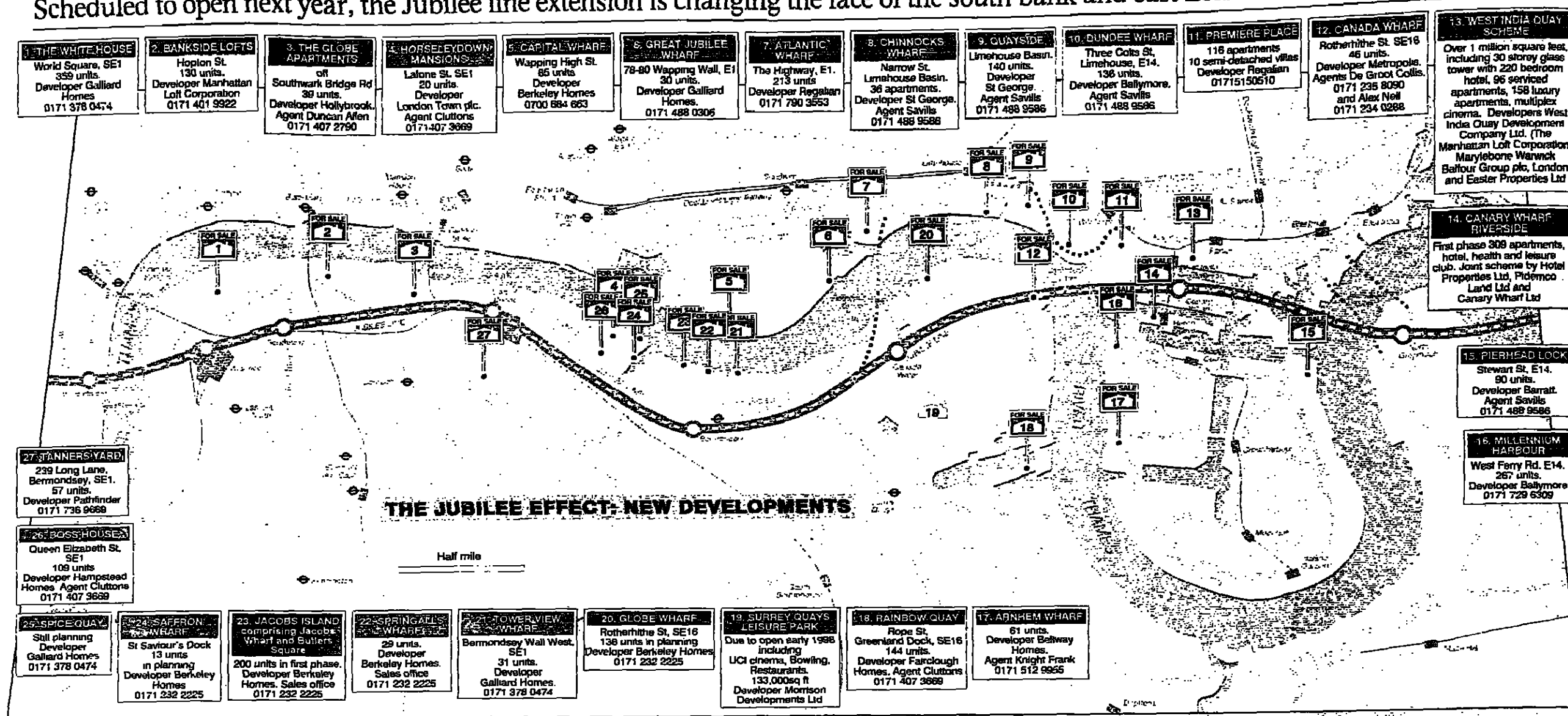
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MAISON ST. VINCENT, W6 Beautiful 3

Scheduled to open next year, the Jubilee line extension is changing the face of the south bank and east London. Amanda Loose reports



The Jubilee Effect begins to bite

As work continues underground on the Jubilee line extension, which should be up and running by the autumn of next year, there is also a bustle of activity above ground. The banks of the Thames are full of new developments — and experts predict the Jubilee Effect will eventually spread all along the railway tracks leading into Waterloo and London Bridge, with property prices rising as Canary Wharf is brought within easy commuting distance.

The Globe Theatre opened last week, and work continues apace on the nearby Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, which is due to open in 2000. The area around Butlers Wharf is bustling, while further east, a retail park with multi-screen cinema is planned at Surrey Quays. Five hotels are in the pipeline at Canary Wharf, and development of the new Citibank building is well under way.

Not to be outdone, residential developers are building and converting existing buildings at a great rate. Last year about 1,770 homes were built from Wapping to the Isle of Dogs, according to the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), and 2,200 were sold, many before they were finished.

The market is bullish. Agents quote double-figure price rises over the past year and they believe that the impending Tube link is a deciding factor. Savills says prices of flats rose by more than 23 per cent around Shad Thames and Bermondsey in the year to March 1997, and by 19 per cent on the Isle of Dogs.

Peter Sloane, of Knight Frank, says: "Developers have been buying land with the Jubilee line in mind for the past three or four years, and the impetus is increasing as the opening date looms."

Richard Cotton, of Cluttons, agrees. Prices are rising, and the actual opening of the line will precipitate further increases, he says. Demand is high and has been steadily improving since 1993 when the second wave of riverside development began.

"There has been a significant uplift in development in Docklands and along the south bank over the past two years," he says.

"Developers have looked to where the stations are going to be, and appreciate that once the line is in place it will be the last piece of infrastructure needed to cement the futures of areas such as Southwark, Surrey Docks and the Isle of Dogs."

Paul Vallone, of Berkeley Homes, is a big player in the area, notably for the Springall Wharf, Jacobs Wharf and Butlers Square developments on Jacob's Island, just east of Butlers Wharf, which is described by Dickens in *Oliver Twist* as a harbour of illicit trade and intrigue.

"The south bank and Docklands are now on the list of places to live," Mr Vallone says. "The Jubilee line will open up the south bank, and so far people have bought properties on the basis that the area will increase in value more rapidly than the market in general."

"This is due in part to the Tube

link, which will probably have a 5 to 10 per cent impact on prices when it opens. The atmosphere around Butlers Wharf is bullish, with more developments, such as Saffron Wharf, a 13-unit development at Jacob's Island, in the pipeline."

Demand is already up and prices around the new station sites are increasing, says Carl Williams, of Chestertons Residential, at Tower Bridge.

"People working in the West End and as far away as White City are buying in areas of the Docklands they simply would not have considered before now," he says.

"Their commuting time will be ten to 15 minutes when the extension opens."

"We recently sold a two-bedroom warehouse conversion in Vogens Mill, ten minutes' walk from the new Bermondsey station, in excess of the £210,000 asking price. Eight-

teen months ago it would have sold for less than £165,000."

Developments are continuing to sell steadily, but there are homes built, planned, converted and being constructed for all tastes.

The big guns are out in force again, and smaller developers such as Hollybrook, on the site of the

ing. Andy Campbell, developer, says: "Bermondsey is like Clerkenwell three years ago, and it is bound to pick up with the Jubilee line."

Two schemes, which should go ahead within the next month, will alter the face of Canary Wharf, according to Avril Butt, of the firm De Groot Collis, which has advised the developers.

Work should start at the end of the month on Canary Wharf Riverside, a joint scheme by Hotel Properties, Pidemco Ltd and Canary Wharf.

The first phase will include 309 apartments, a five-star hotel and a health and a leisure club with tennis court and swimming pool.

Over at West India Quay, the West India Quay Development Company Ltd (The Manhattan Loft Corporation: MaryleboneWarwick Balfour Group, London and Easter Properties), is waiting for listed building planning consent before

work starts on a development of more than 1 million square feet. This will include a 30-storey glass tower, a 220-bedroom hotel, 96 serviced apartments, 158 luxury apartments, and a warehouse conversion including 94 loft apartments, a nine-screen multiplex cinema and a 26,000 square foot supermarket.

What is the long-term outlook for Docklands and the south bank? Richard Donnell, of Savills Research, believes they could give established prime residential areas a run for their money.

Russell Taylor, of Savills, says there are still some areas left to develop, but prime spots are running out.

Mr Cotton says there are a limited number of warehouses still unconverted, but developers are beginning to find opportunities for major riverside development decreasing.

Mr Sloane says much of the land around Canary Wharf is already in the hands of developers.

FASTER JOURNEYS

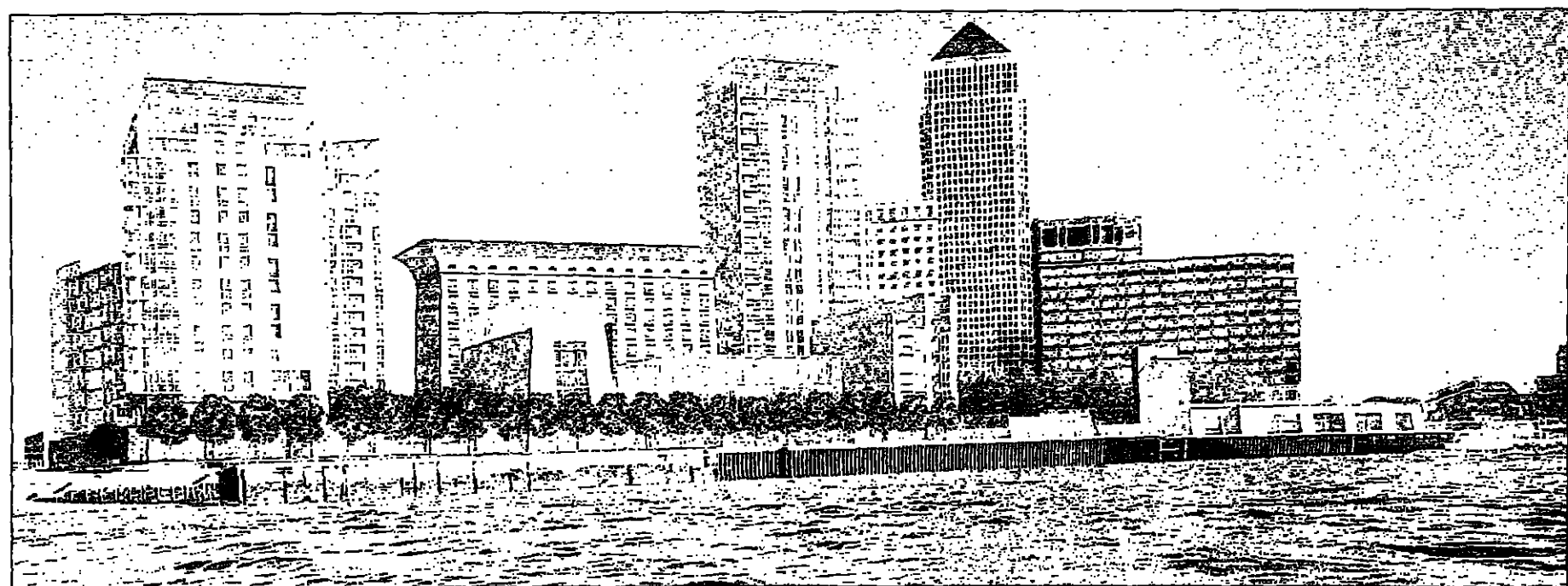
THE JUBILEE LINE extension will improve life for commuters from Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire, according to a report by Knight Frank. The fast, direct Underground service to Docklands, which is linked to London Bridge and Waterloo, should cut 15 minutes off travelling times.

Agents expect the commuter belts in the south and south-east of England to expand as more cities, towns and villages fall within an hour to an hour-and-a-half journey time to Canary Wharf. The more bullish agents are already forecasting price rises of up to 10 per cent and are expecting an influx of new buyers.

Rupert Sweeting, of Knight Frank, says: "The Jubilee line extension could particularly affect property prices in areas of Kent and Sussex which many City businessmen had considered too far away. Tonbridge, in Kent, is currently one hour seven minutes from Canary Wharf, when the extension opens it will be only 52 minutes away. Similarly, the journey time from Winchester, in Hampshire, will be reduced from one hour 35 minutes to one hour 20 minutes. The pressure of new buyers on these areas could push prices up by perhaps a further 10 per cent."

John Husband, of Humberside, in Lewes, believes the commuter belt will spread further south as travel times are reduced, making fringe areas in East Sussex such as Lewes, Wadhurst and Robertsbridge more commutable.

Michael Perry-Jones, of Browns, in Guildford, Surrey, says: "Opening up the Docklands will mean that commuters will come in from places further south, such as Esher, Cobham or Cranley. Properties in areas just beyond the commuter belt cost 5 to 10 per cent less than those within it. The new line could mean that prices level out."



Tourists welcome a working design of the Canary Wharf Riverside — it will include 309 flats, a five-star hotel and a health and a leisure club with tennis court and pool

Is an indoor swimming pool a sound investment?

You have £72,000 to £250,000 handy and like the idea of a morning dip. Morag Preston weighs up the ultimate luxury

The barn next to Desert Orchid's picturesque paddock in the Leicestershire village of Ab Kettleby is not a barn at all — it is an indoor swimming pool. The hand-painted mural on the interior features dogs, fields, and even the flying grey, all belonging to the family living in the manor house next door.

Jimmy Burrledge, who part-owns the nation's favourite racehorse, now in retirement, decided to convert the barn even though he does not like swimming. However, family and friends have made good use of the heated pool that leads off the breakfast room. Rectangular in shape and slightly deeper at one end, it is big enough for a serious swim.

Whether the indoor pool will turn out to be a sound investment was less of a consideration at the time of its conception. But it is a serious issue for anyone who is not going to live in a house for more than five years. The cost of an indoor swimming pool will vary considerably, but an average figure lies somewhere between £72,000 and £250,000. An investment of £300,000 could earn £17,000 gross income — £6,000 net — in a single year, enough for a

first-rate fortnight's family holiday in the sun, with the assurance of plenty of swimming.

Asked whether a £200,000 investment would add £200,000 to the value of a house, Andrew Hay, of Knight Frank, says: "As an approximate rule, in normal market conditions with values rising 5 to 10 per cent a year, an investor can expect to get 50 per cent of his or her investment back in a year, and the remainder over four to six years. Ultimately, it should come down to a question of personal satisfaction — will you really use the facility?"

There are many buyers who will only visit a house with a pool, although it is seldom given priority over location, accommodation or period style. For houses valued at more than £1.5 million, more than half the buyers are from overseas; they are less enthusiastic about a tennis court, but agents find that an indoor pool is at the top of

their list of requirements. Although installation costs are higher, a covered pool can reduce heating and maintenance costs. Another alternative, which still allows you to enjoy open-air swimming in the summer, is to

enclose an existing pool, with a telescopic cover that can be totally or partially rolled back in fine weather, an air dome, large conservatory, or log cabin. Popular in northern Europe, log cabins or chalets with three-inch walls

would be unlikely to require any insulation in the UK. In most cases, planning permission is not required, and because the wood is warm to touch, it minimises condensation. For those who do not have the room to install a full-

sized pool, a spa can be fitted into a relatively small space.

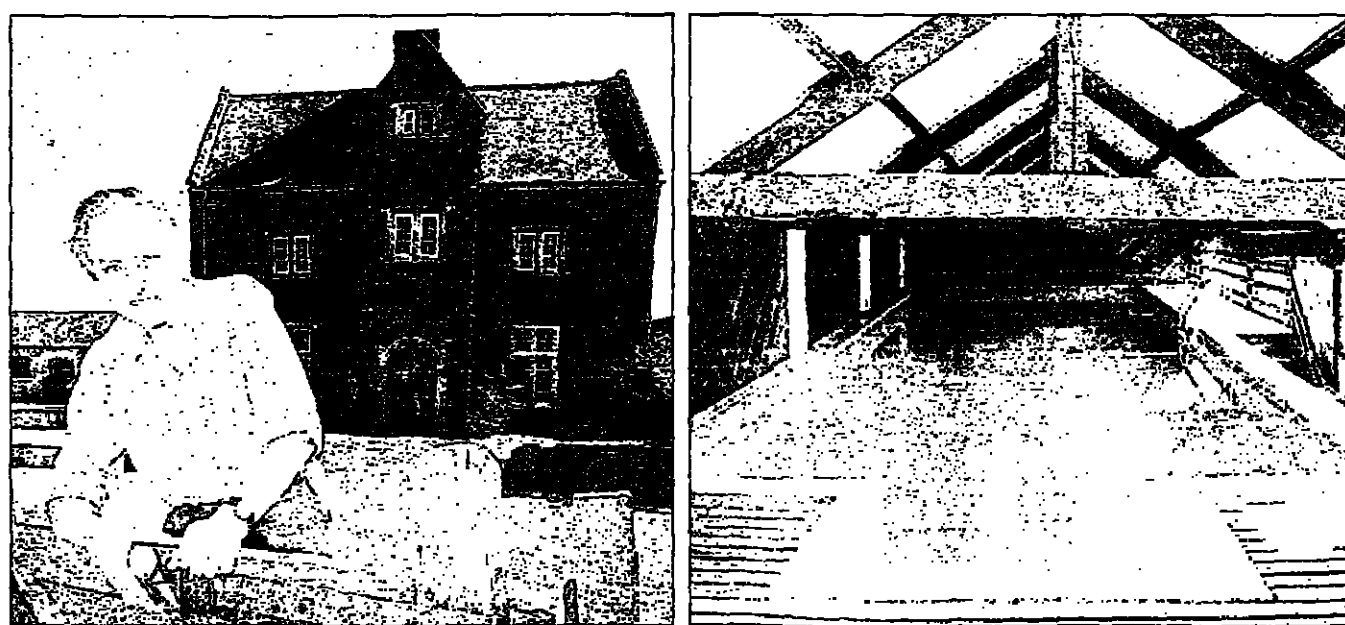
According to the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association (SPATA), the industry watchdog acting for both customers and builders, manufacturers are working flat out to meet demand. SPATA suggests that anyone wanting to build an indoor pool should compare quotes from three installers with experience in similar pools and in dealing with any related environmental problems. Design considerations include heating methods, dehumidification, plant room noise suppression, waste recovery and cooling in the summer.

According to Simon Umfreville, of De Groot Collis, which is selling two adjoining Georgian houses with spectacular indoor pools on Upper Brook Street in London's Mayfair, "They have raised the garden up to ground floor level, and put the pool in

at basement level. Basement gardens get no light, so they were filling in dead space. From basement, are more complicated." Installing pools in these houses was made easier because they are next door to one another. "A large number of houses in Belgravia and Mayfair have indoor pools. If they're done in a professional manner, and add something to the house, then they're a sound investment. I know of three houses in Knightsbridge where the pools have been filled in," Mr Umfreville says.

Savills is selling Great Tangle Manor, a five-bedroom moated Grade I listed building in Womersley, Surrey, with a large indoor swimming pool, for £1 million. Knight Frank is selling Rowley Lodge in Arkley, Hertfordshire, a seven-bedroom country house with a magnificent mosaic-tiled indoor pool that can be boarded over to provide a ballroom, for £1.75 million. It is also selling The Cedars in Sunninghill, Berkshire, a six-bedroom Georgian house with a tennis court, paddocks, a thatched dairy and swimming pool housed in a large Victorian-style conservatory, for £2.75 million.

● A Swimming Pool Guide, produced by SPATA, is available on 0800 525692.



Racehorse owner Jimmy Burrledge at his house near Melton Mowbray. He has converted the barn into a swimming pool

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PRIVATE SALES

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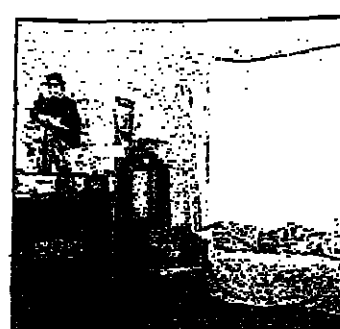


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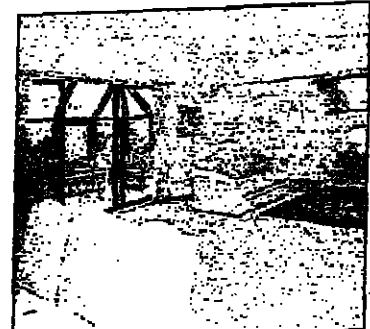
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THE NEW KINGS CROSS

Diana Wildman finds two glorious estates deep in the heart of romantic, rural Italy, with the charm of Florence and Siena nearby



Tuscany treasures: Corno, a spacious wine and olive-oil producing estate, for sale at £1.45 million, at Castellina, and Villa Castagnoli, below, an imposing mansion set in 80 acres near Panzano. Asking price £2 million

Grand Tuscan estates are proving popular again with the rich, international, leisure-home buyer. City bonuses, a weak lira — about 2,700 to the pound — and increasingly sophisticated communication systems have changed the profile of buyers seeking seclusion in the splendour of the countryside between Florence and Siena.

It is the culture found in these two cities which further encourages buyers keen to spend several months of the year in rural tranquillity but who also enjoy the architectural and art treasures of the medieval towns.

Bill Thomson of Chianti Estates, Knight Frank's associated company in Italy, says: "The socio-economic profile is increasing all the time. Because of universal use of the modern, Internet and mobile phone/fax systems, a rural estate can now be the base for a global business. There are international airports at Florence and Pisa, direct air links between Siena and Milan and motorway links are good."

Knight Frank is selling two contrasting properties, both reminiscent of the one used as the focal point in Bertolucci's film, *Stealing Beauty*, which rightly received more acclaim for its photography of the sweeping Tuscan hills than for its storyline.

Corno is a spacious wine and olive-oil producing estate set in 70 lush acres ten miles north of Siena

Tuscan seclusion: a chance of stealing beauty

at Castellina, deep in Chianti, valued at £1.45 million. The core of the stone property dates from the 14th century and was originally the home farm for the local villagers.

During the following 400 years, there was haphazard building, and the result today is a grand house which has been converted over the past 25 years by the present owners who acquired Corno as a virtual wreck.

The grounds are immaculate and the profit from the production of about 2,500 litres of olive oil each year, which is for sale through outlets such as Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge, pays for the day-to-day running costs of the estate. The wine is sufficient for the owners and friends.

A couple of self-contained guest houses within the original farm

FOREIGN PROPERTIES

outbuildings have been converted for holiday hire.

The interior of the house is an example of classic rural living with a farmhouse kitchen, nine bedrooms and a formal first-floor drawing room with an adjacent small music room. There are several reception rooms, including a dining room with mosaic floor. The layout offers flexibility for a new owner to create a further ground-floor living room.

As with most such properties in Tuscany, outside living is the norm for the spring and summer months and Corno has large, partially covered terracing which could easily be extended. There is a large

swimming pool and new trees are being cultivated to extend the olive production.

In contrast, Knight Frank quotes £2 million for Villa Castagnoli, an imposing mansion set in 80 acres near the walled village of Panzano. The estate, which has at its heart a medieval watchtower, is 23 miles from both Siena and Florence. The tower was built by an important Florentine family to form part of the defence of the city against its fight with Siena in the 14th century for supremacy in the region.

Castagnoli gradually evolved as a formal villa between the 15th and 18th centuries and today is an imposing property with six spacious bedroom suites, seven reception rooms, staff and guest cottages. The tower consists of a grand summer drawing room complete

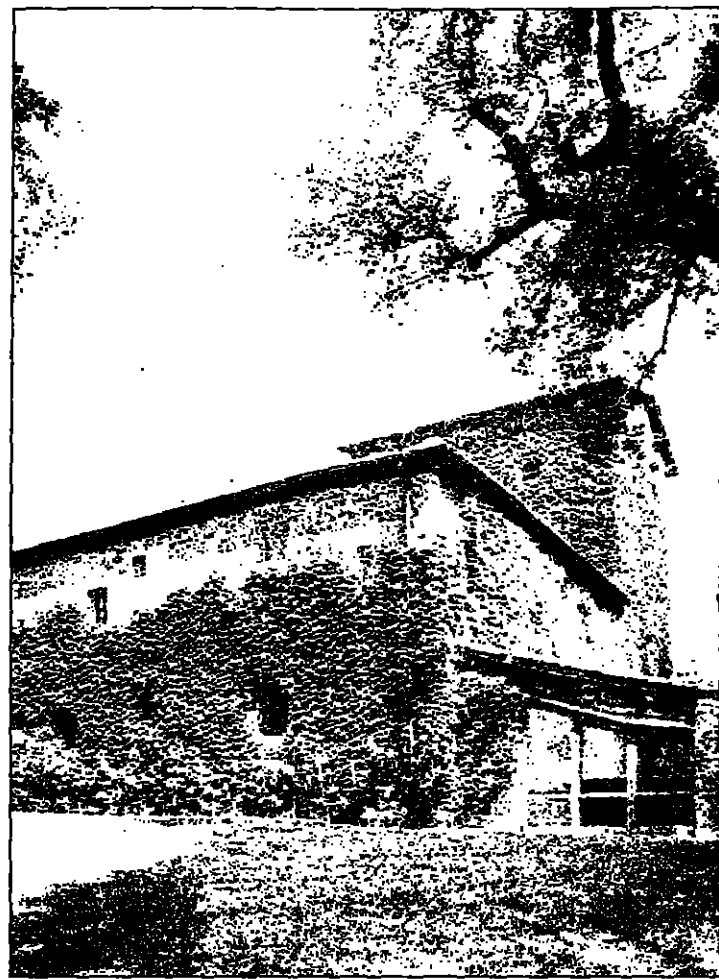
with two levels of minstrel galleries, now used as a library. There are family and winter sitting rooms and a 45ft long formal basement drawing room with a large, stone fireplace.

The original bread oven is still in the cavernous kitchen and there are old brick floors and brick vaulted ceilings throughout the property. The emphasis is on formal splendour. It is simply a grand country home ideal for entertaining. The main outdoor terrace has sweeping views over the green terracotta-lined swimming pool and formal gardens towards the rolling hills and tiny villages.

The local planning authorities have jealously protected the environment, and the Tuscan countryside (as well as Florence and Siena) has no high-rise buildings or conspicuously ugly blocks of flats to spoil the skyline.

Knight Frank's Patrick Dring says: "There is a huge demand for properties like these. I envisage it being bought by a captain of industry, probably British, a government minister or a serious actor — someone who wishes to fly in half a dozen times a year and enjoy instant and utter seclusion. There is a helicopter pad at Villa Castagnoli and it is a 30-minute hop from Pisa."

Details: Knight Frank (0171 629 8171), Chianti Estates (0039 577 731120). Fax: 0039 577 731121.



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REGALIAN

HOUSE OF THE MONTH: BERTRAND RUSSELL'S SCHOOL

Telegraph House, built in the early 1900s by Frank, the 2nd Earl Russell, the brother of the philosopher and mathematician Bertrand Russell, has come on to the market through Savills' Salisbury office, writes Katherine Bergen.

The Grade II listed house, situated in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty, includes 300 acres on the South Downs and was built on the site of a former semaphore keeper's cottage. Between 1822 and 1845 there was a line of 15 semaphore stations connecting the Admiralty in London with Portsmouth Harbour. Telegraph House was number 14 in line and from it you can see south as far as the Solent and the Isle of Wight.

In 1927 Bertrand Russell rented the house from his brother and, with his wife Dora, ran it as a progressive school that became notorious locally for the liberated behaviour of the both staff and pupils, who used to cavort in the nude through the grounds during the summer months.

There are four reception rooms, including a fitted library and an oak-panelled dining room, five bedrooms and four bathrooms in the main house and a further three bedrooms and a bathroom in the west wing.

This wing also has a third-floor tower room with windows on four



Telegraph House and, right, Bertrand Russell in the garden with some of the school children

sides which was particularly liked by Bertrand Russell and became his study. In 1950 he won the Nobel prize for literature.

An annex of the house provides further accommodation and has been separately let. Two bungalows in the grounds, Yew Tree Cottage and Corner Cottage, are currently let on six-month assured tenancies.

The formal gardens, which

cover just over an acre, have been open to the public for 23 years under the National Gardens scheme and have been awarded a star in the *Good Gardens Guide*.

The owners have specialised in growing chalk-loving plants, both herbaceous and shrubs. Also in the grounds are an outdoor swimming pool and a studio built by Russell as a classroom.

Another feature of the property,

along with 110 acres of agricultural land, is 150 acres of natural woodlands including examples of yew, whitebeam and oak, designated as a site of special scientific interest.

The woodlands have remained unchanged throughout this century and are full of wildlife, including deer, badgers and foxes. Savills expect offers in excess of £1.6 million.



What can you buy for £100,000?

After years of stagnation, the housing market is finally on the move again.

Moira O'Neill talks to estate agents to see what you can get for your money

Fuelled by a booming financial services market, the cost of a family house in London has passed the £100,000 limit — yet the national average for a house is still £58,196, according to Nationwide's monthly house price index.

Demand for homes is pushing up prices so fast that Winkworth's latest London property price guide — headlined "Summer 1997" — is already out of date. It says that four-bedroom houses in Tooting, on the southern fringe of London, can be bought for £95,000 — but Winkworth's Tooting office says you would now have to pay at least £110,000.

In down-market Kennington the guide prices a three-bedroom house from £75,000. Not so, says the

Kennington office: the cheapest three-bedroom house on their list costs £120,000, though they do have a two-bedroom former council house for £99,500.

Anyone with £100,000 to spare could perhaps get a studio flat in South Kensington, a one-bedroom flat in Docklands or Fulham or a two-bedroom flat in London's fringe areas if they were lucky and fast on the draw. Family house in good order? Forget it.

Regional trends, however, reveal the split in the housing market. Price gains outside London and the South East are modest; Nationwide's Housing Finance Review says that prices in Scotland have actually fallen in the last twelve months, though it adds "there is no question of any return to the 1990s peak, when prices in the South were double those in the North".

I asked local estate agents around Britain what £100,000 would buy me.

In Edinburgh, Speirs Gumley said that £100,000 would purchase a three-bedroom modern detached house or a traditional terraced house in the suburbs. However, on the city outskirts, I could buy a large, traditional detached house. Further north, in the centre of Aberdeen, the same money could purchase only a two-bedroom flat

in a modern block, though on the outskirts there are rural three-bedroom cottages to be bought for the same price, according to agents Grant Smith. If I were to turn westwards to spend my £100,000 in Fort William, McNulty & Co said that I could buy a five-bedroom, modern detached house, on an acre of land.

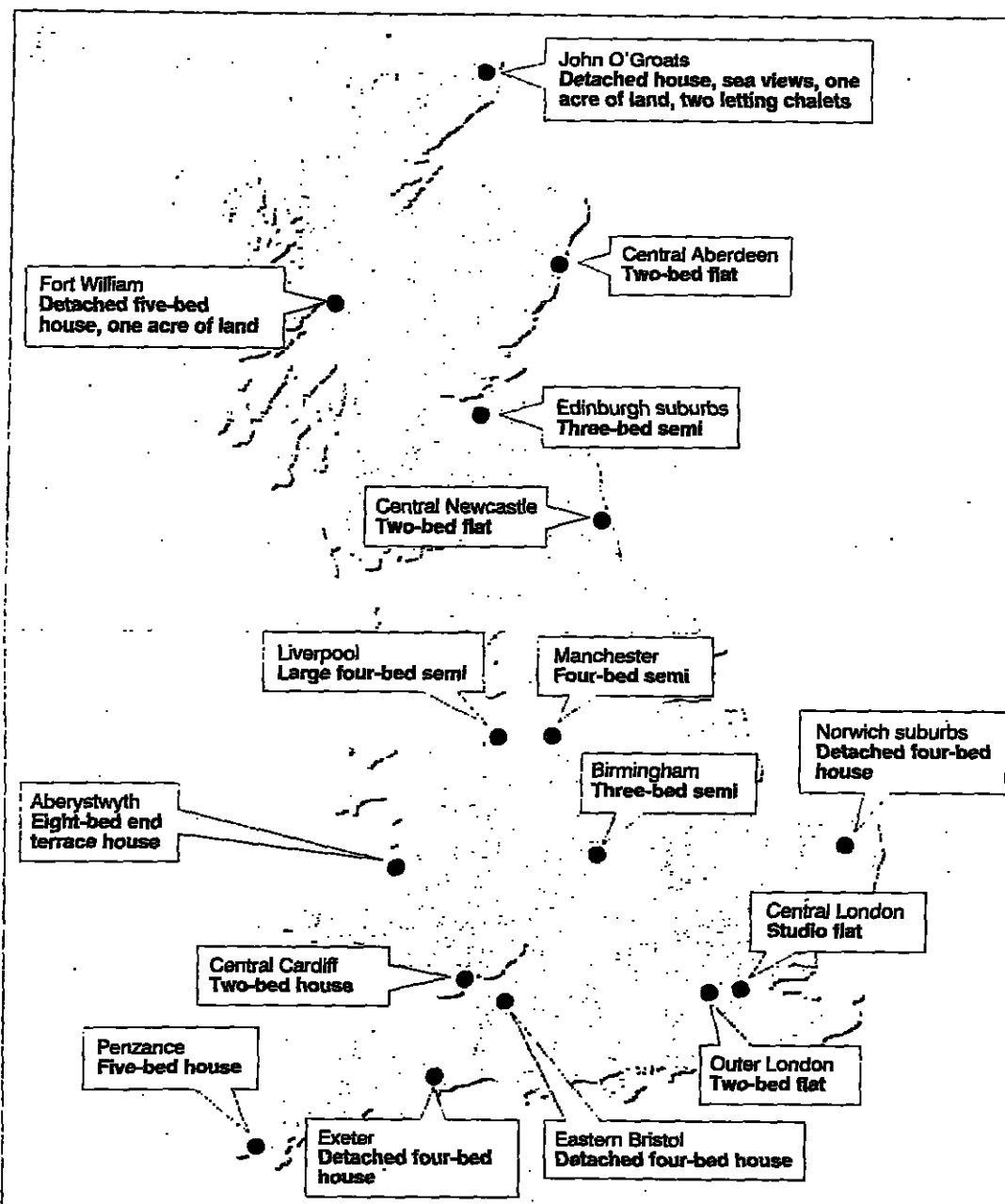
An owner of a London flat could sell his property and live in style in the midlands. In Birmingham, £100,000 would buy a three-bedroom traditional semi-detached house or an attractive top-floor three-bedroom mansion house apartment, says Dixons in Harborne. In Manchester, the same amount would obtain an Edwardian four-bedroom semi or a modern detached four-bedroom house, says Alan Ainsworth.

A short trip north-east to Liverpool would get you more, perhaps a large four-bedroom Victorian semi or a three-bedroom large detached house in the city centre. Indeed, my £100,000 could secure me a four-bedroom family semi-detached house with a swimming pool, according to Roberts, Edwards and Worrall.

No so, however, in Newcastle city centre, where £100,000 would buy not a house but a two-bedroom luxury flat with ensuite bedrooms, a balcony and a garage. In the neighbouring areas, says Keith Paterson, you would get a three-bedroom terraced house, and three miles from the city centre you could buy a three-bedroom detached...

There are some good properties to be had in Norwich for £100,000, says Arnolds. In the city centre you could buy a Victorian terraced house, perhaps a semi or a luxury apartment. In the suburbs, detached four-bedroom estate properties can be bought for the same price and in the villages ten miles north, you could buy an attractive cottage on an acre of land.

In central Cardiff, according to Mansell's, £100,000 would only buy a luxury two-bedroom flat, though you would not need to move far out to buy a house. In most of the rest of Wales, prices are still low



and in the middle of Aberystwyth a Victorian property at the end of a terrace overlooking a marina has eight bedrooms. Lloyd, Herbert and Jones are asking only £90,000.

The western side of Bristol is expensive and you could not buy a decent house for £100,000. However, in the east of the town, £100,000 would buy a modern, four-bedroom, detached property, says A.J. Soper.

In Exeter you could buy a four-bedroom detached house on a modern estate and if you were to go west of the River Exe you would find even better properties for £100,000, says Wilkinson Grant.

But by far the best properties available for £100,000 are to be found at the extremities of the United Kingdom. Londoners tempted to migrate might consider Penzance, where for £100,000 you could have your choice of thatched cottages with large gardens and sea views. An architect-designed detached four-bedroom house with a sea view would also be within your price range, according to Whitlocks.

At the northern end of Britain, near John O'Groats, Young Robertson and Co have a detached house in an acre of land with views to the Orkney Islands for £95,000.

Should a Londoner really want to downshift, however, the same agents have a 19th-century stone-built three-storey house in Wick, refurbished by the present owners. The asking price? £23,000.

● Winkworth (Tooting), 0181 7673221; Speirs Gumley, 0131-225 1055; Grant Smith, 01224 621620; McNulty & Co, 01797 703231; Dixons, 0121-428 2383; Alan Ainsworth, 0161-442 1221; Roberts, Edwards and Worrall, 0151-733 7101; Keith Paterson, 0191-233 4392; Arnolds, 01603 625551; Mansell's, 01222 521600; Lloyd, Herbert and Jones, 01970 612550; A.J. Soper, 01179 610360; Wilkinson Grant, 01292 427500; Whitlocks, 01736 266290; Young Robertson & Co, 01847 393347.

GETTING A LOAN

Sara McConnell says there are still good mortgage deals to be had, but borrowers should hurry if they want the best rates

How much will it cost to borrow £100,000? This used to be an easy one. Lenders offered a standard variable mortgage rate and that was that. Now borrowers are likely to need a lie-down after a lender has run through a long list of fixed rates, discounts, capped rates and cashbacks.

But if there is one near certainty this year, it is that the cost of loans will continue to rise as the newly independent Bank of England tries to head off a feared bout of inflation. Two rate rises in two months since Labour came to power have already pushed the big lenders' standard variable rate up to 7.95 per cent.

Borrowing £100,000 at 7.95 per cent on a repayment mortgage will cost you £747.51 a month. Interest-only loans appear cheaper, at £632.69 a month, but you will be expected to contribute to an insurance policy or investment on top of this to build up enough capital to repay the loan.

Tax relief on mortgage interest (MIRAS) may also be abolished in the summer Budget. This would push the monthly bill for a repayment loan up to £777.33 and for an interest-only loan to £662.50.

Gone are the days when lenders were so desperate to pull in borrowers that they offered better rates to those borrowing more. Abbey National is now almost alone among big lenders in doing so. After the latest interest-rate rise, Abbey's rate for borrowing £100,000 is 7.85 per cent, where a repayment loan would cost £740.87 a month and an interest-only loan £624.73. Both figures include MIRAS.

But many borrowers are opting to fix their rates to insulate themselves from further possible rises. The cost of fixed rates is also rising as lenders have to pay more to buy funds in the wholesale money markets, so move fast if you want to fix. The Halifax, the largest lender, which has just become a bank, predicts that base rates could

be as high as 7 per cent by the end of the year, compared with the current 6.5 per cent.

A further incentive to fix is that lenders have started to raise their variable mortgage rates by more than the amount of the base rate rise. Two rises of 0.25 per cent each have been met with immediate rises of 0.35 per cent by lenders.

Patrick Bunton, of London and Country Mortgages, the independent mortgage adviser, favours the Coventry Building Society's new fixed rate of 7.1 per cent for five years. On an interest-only loan, this would cost £565.04 with tax relief and £591.67 without. The equivalent costs for a repayment mortgage would be £694.92 and £721.54. The big drawback of the Coventry's offer, unlike others, is that you cannot move house during the five-year term without penalty.

More generally, the risk of fixing the loan rate is that base rates will fall and you will be locked into an expensive loan. You have to weigh this risk against the advantage of being able to budget exactly.

One way of having your cake and eating it is to opt for a capped-rate mortgage, says Mr Bunton. This way, your rate is guaranteed not to rise beyond a set level during a specified period but will fall if base rates fall. With the Stroud & Swindon Building Society's three-year capped rate, you pay a fixed rate of 5.99 per cent for six months then a capped rate of 7.49 per cent for the next 30 months. On a repayment loan with MIRAS this will cost £628.81 a month, rising to not more than £718.85 over the rest of the term. You can pay off up to 25 per cent of your loan without penalty during the term of the loan.

Both lenders say they should have enough funds to lend out at these rates for at least another two weeks. But the latest rate rise has made existing fixed and capped rates an even better deal than they were before, so there is no guarantee.

Borrowers are fixing their rates against further rises

Quest to be on top of the pile started at the ground floor

A craftswoman confesses the lighter side of her career to Eve-Ann Prentice

THE CARPET-FITTER'S TALE

I started as a carpet-fitter purely by accident. I used to be at school with Ian James, who runs the firm I now work for in Kidlington near Oxford. When I left school I filled in working for my Dad his garage, paint-spraying and welding and, for some strange reason, I started to help Ian.

I stayed for 12 months and watched and took it all in. When I was at the garage, I learnt about panel beating by watching and learning.

Then I travelled to New Zealand, assuming I would get work there as a barnmaid or waitress, but I saw an advertisement for a carpet-fitter and was taken on for two days. I stayed for six months. When I came back to England I eventually worked for Ian again and I have been with him now at Crescent Carpets for three years. Last year I entered the carpet-fitter of the year award organised by the National Institute of Floor-Layers and Carpet-Fitters. This year I got

to the national semi-finals in March.

It is quite physically demanding work; the underlay is heavy and the longer you do it the harder it gets. I am 5ft 11in tall, but I don't think I could manage on my own, moving furniture and the like. When you first start you also forget about things on the walls, such as pictures and cabinets.

I know I am not the only woman carpet-fitter in Britain, but as yet I have never met another. When I first started I was quite clumsy and I remember once, all we had to do was pull the carpet away from the wall and replace the gripper. There was a half-moon table on the other side of the room full of crystal glasses. I nudged the carpet and over went the table, taking the glasses with them. There was another time when my head hit a cabinet full of crystal. All the crystal shattered.

Then there was the time we were asked to carpet a whole house in burgundy except for one room which was to be blue. We made a mistake and did nearly all the house in blue and one room in burgundy. Luckily, the owner liked it like that.

Once we were working in Trafalgar Square in a big block of posh, sound-proof offices. I managed to get myself locked in a room at 2am because the door had no handle on it and once the door was closed, no one could hear me shouting. When someone eventually came to look for me and realised what had happened, they had to take the window out to free me.

I work about ten hours a day and it is quite a lonely job. We don't get many complaints, though, and I get satisfaction from doing a good job, or I wouldn't do it. I would say to anyone content-

plating buying a carpet that they shouldn't be afraid of getting more than one quote; they shouldn't be frightened of asking questions. We have some very difficult customers, but people are more willing to take advice now than they used to be. It depends what you want to spend. We used to get people insisting on foam-backed carpet to save on the underlay, but it doesn't last five minutes. Nowadays people will listen to you. If I had my own place I would want nice carpets and I would probably replace the kitchen and bathroom carpets quite often because they get such a lot of wear.

I have worked with men all my life, always surrounded by men and any comments I get about being a woman carpet-fitter go over my head. Being a woman makes you want to prove yourself. I am 27 and my boyfriend and I don't own our own house yet, but I have replaced the carpets wherever I have lived.



Carpet layer Rachel Bolton, a former panel-beater, and a carpet-fitter of the year semi-finalist



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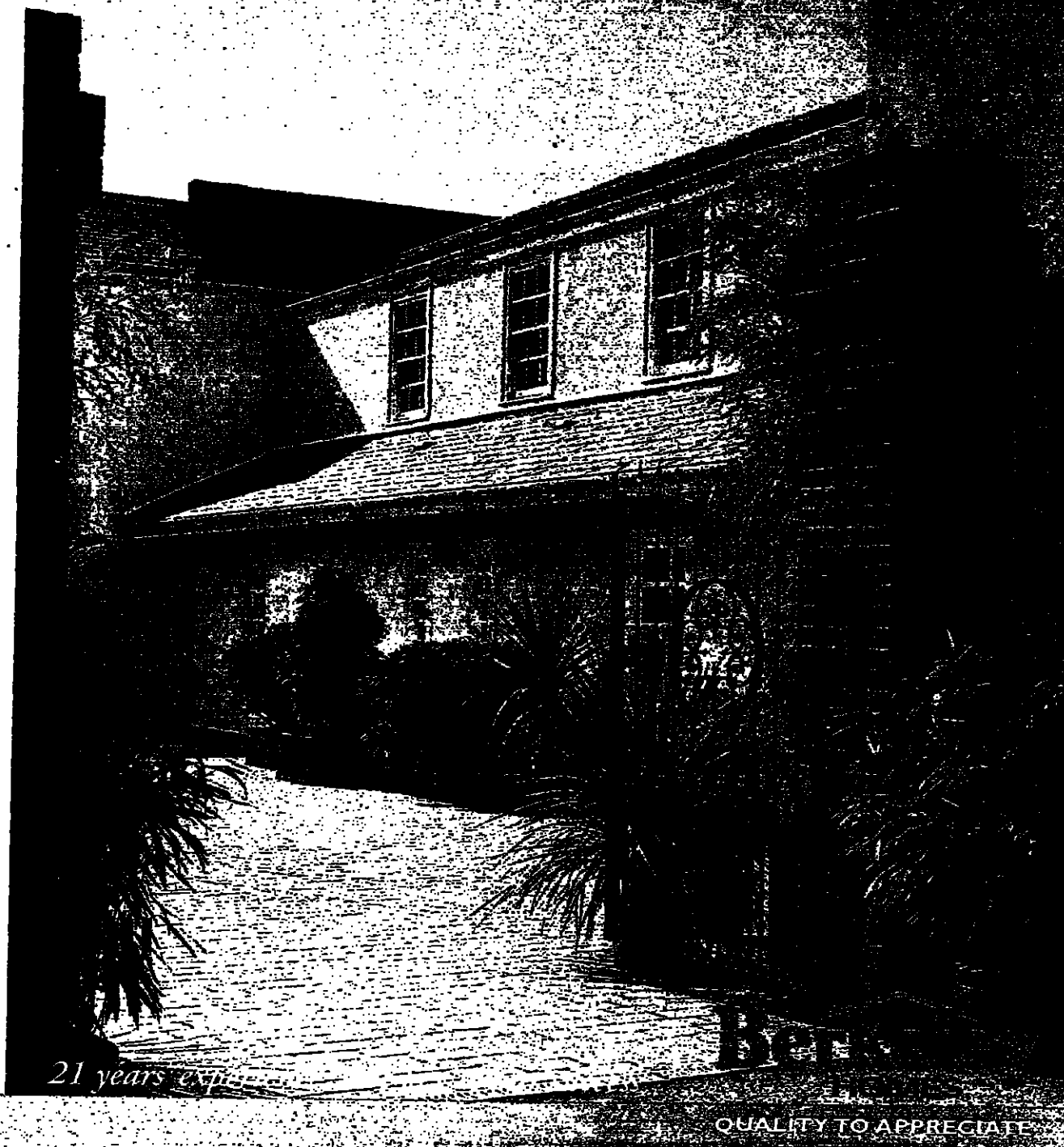
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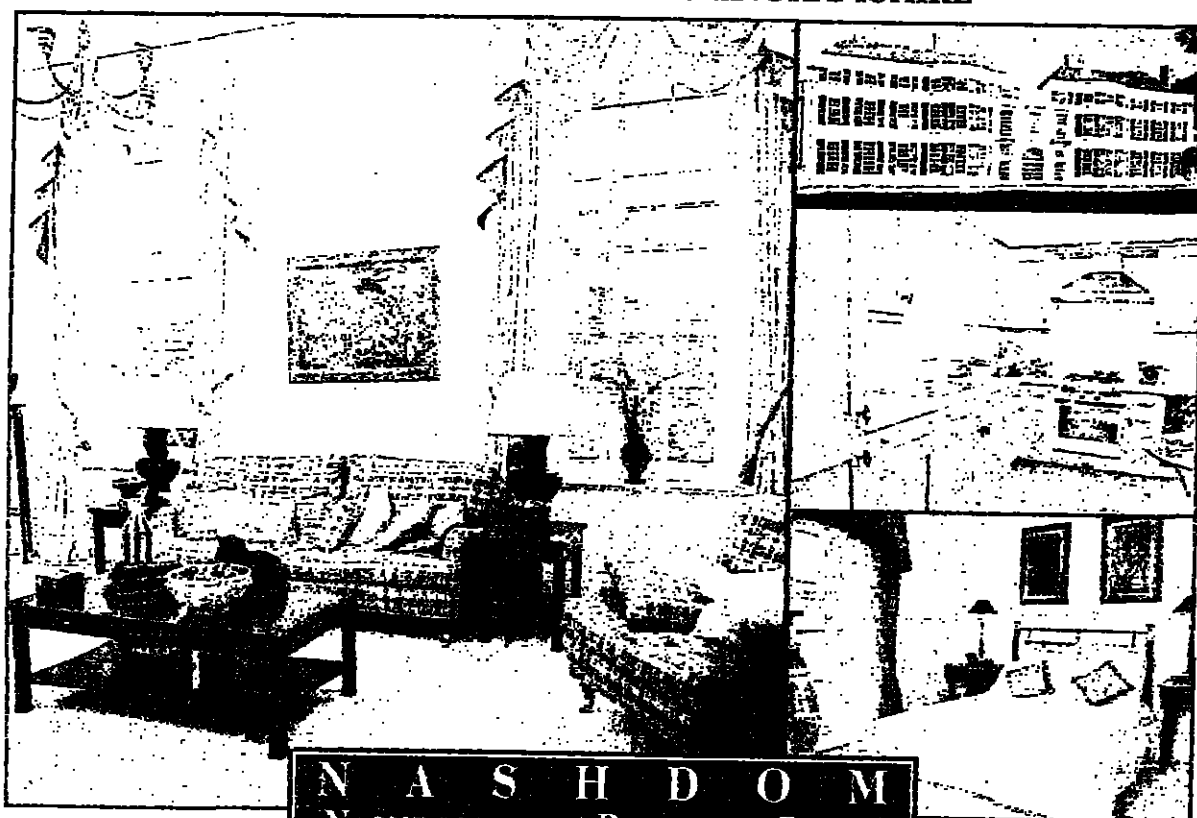
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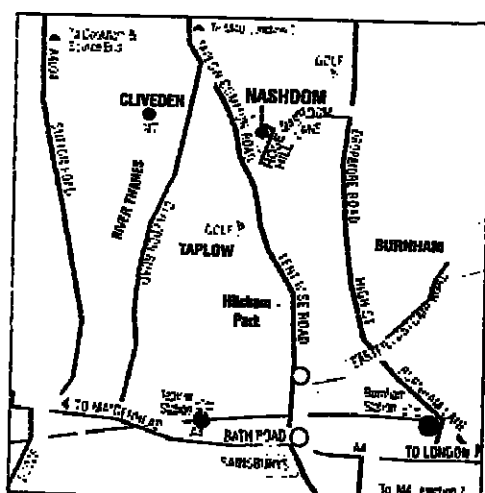
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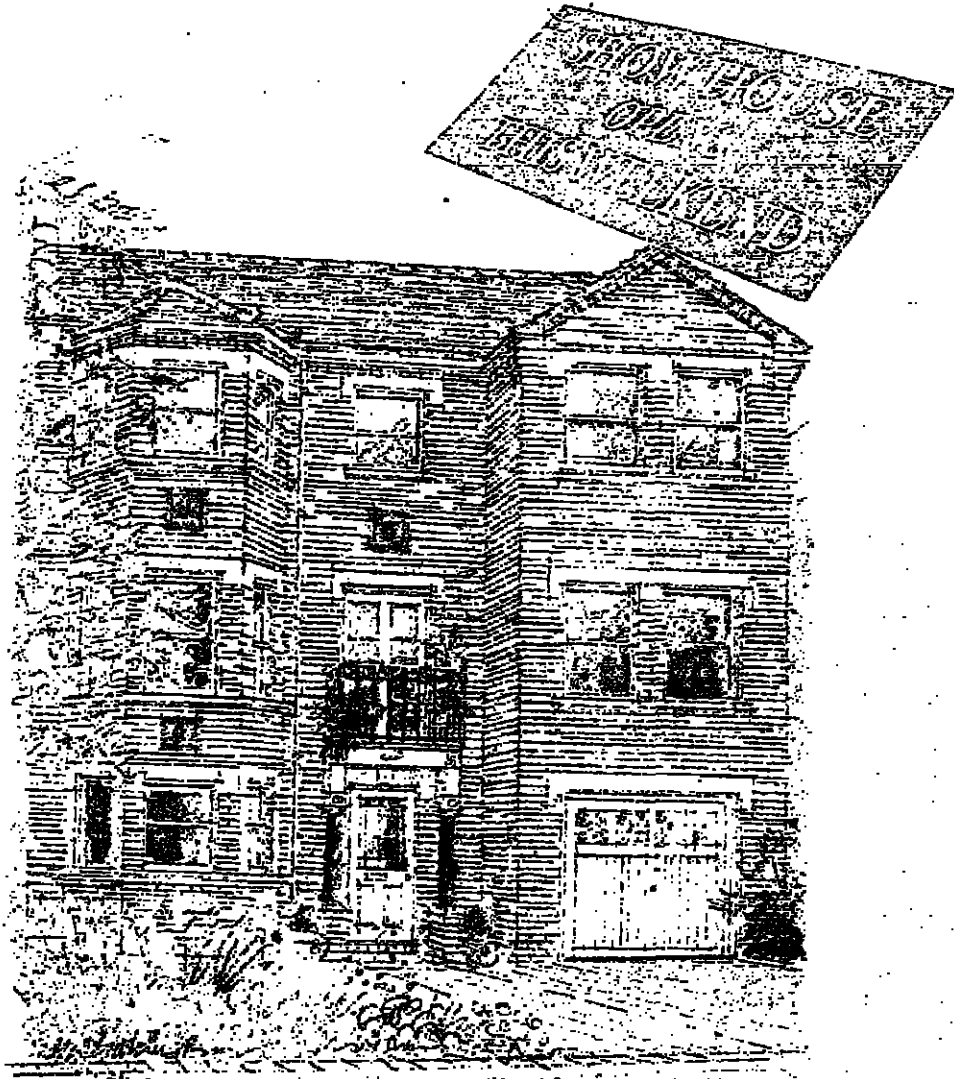
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